● Mutou Hiromu's works
- Hana to Yume COMICS -

Ai wa Chikyuu wo Sukuu vol1-5
Ai tte iu no wa ne
Yatchimattara gomennasai!
Special de Ikou
Never give up! vol1-13
Zero Count vol1-2

Hana to Yume COMICS

Zero count

Hiromu Mutou 1

花とゆめ COMICS

Zero count (1)

Hiromu Mutou

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Hana to Yume COMICS

►Summary◄

One day, Nao's father suddenly announces that she has a fiancé! Nao transfers to her fiancé's school, Kaei Academy, in order to make her fiancé break off the engagement. However, how can Nao force her fiancé to break it off when she doesn't know what he looks like?! This is the first volume about Nao's life and her big project!

■ Serialized in Hana to Yume ■

THE STORY

One day, Nao's father suddenly announces shocking news! Because his friend helped him with his debts, Nao's father agreed to have Nao and his friend's son engaged! Nao is furious with this agreement, and transfers to her fiancé's school, Kaei Academy, in order to make her fiancé break off the engagement. But, how can Nao force her fiancé to break it off when she doesn't know what he looks like?! Join Nao in her quest to find her "husband-to-be"!!

DragonVoice

Zero Count v01 ch01

Hiromu Mutou

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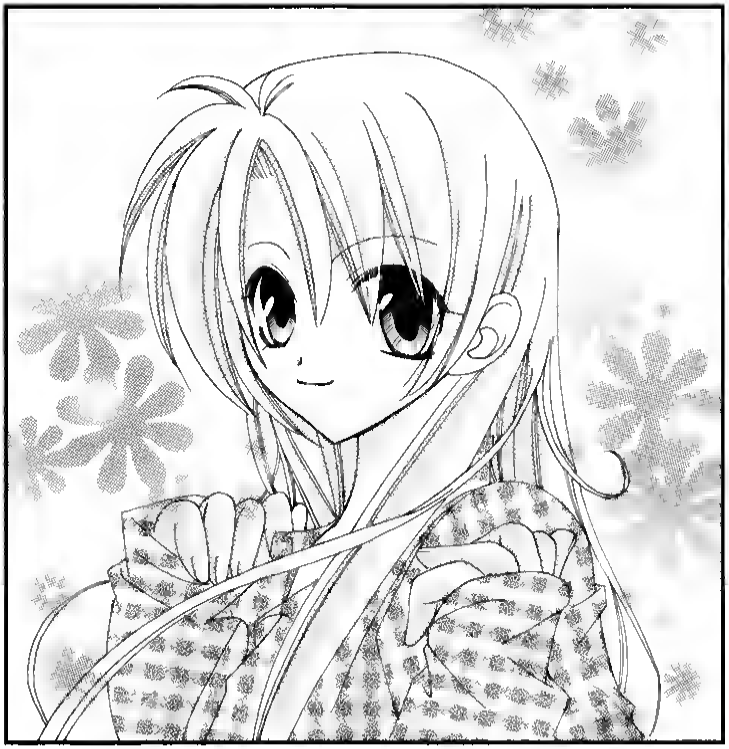
Hana to Yumi Comics

ZERO COUNT

VOLUME 1

HIROMU MUTOU



*This story is entirely fictional, if it in any way resembles a real-life situation, it is by pure coincidence.

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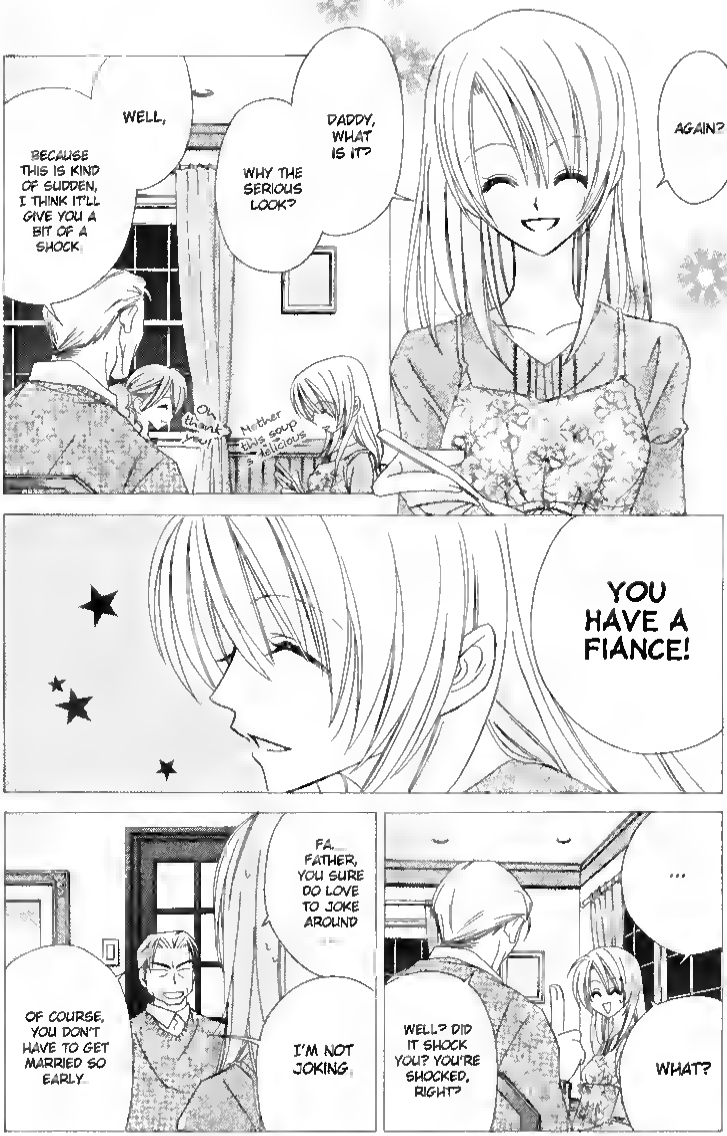
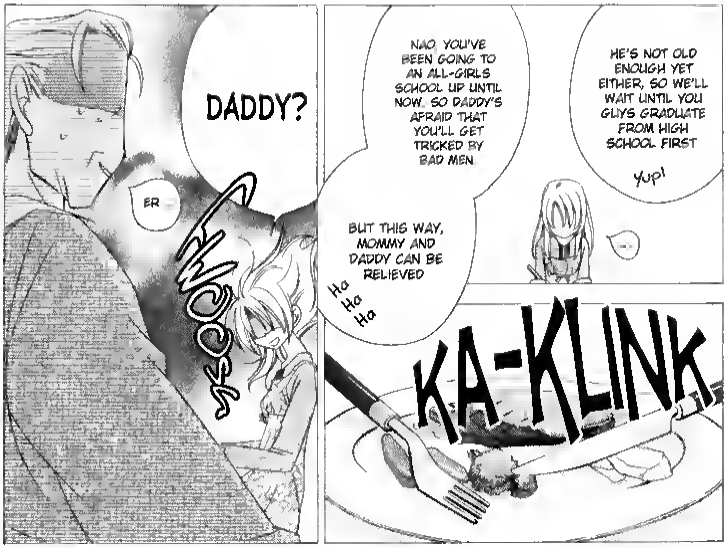
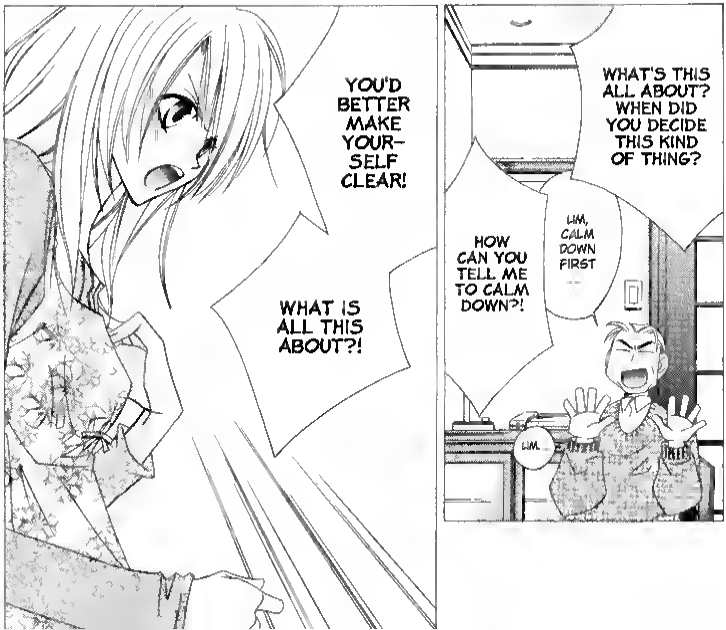
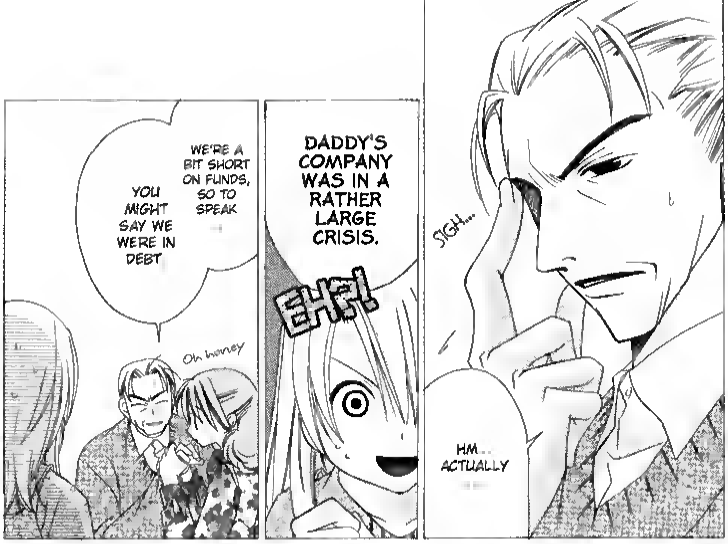
ゼロカウント
ZERO☆COUNT
CHAPTER 1

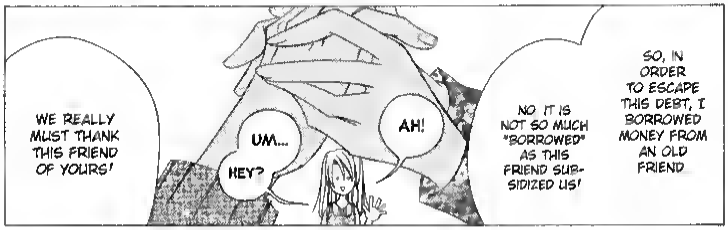
"Nobody knows what will happen to them in their lives."
This idea came to me when I was a child
I used to think this way
And coincidentally this idea can pretty much describe my life at this point.
NAO,
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU


AGAIN?
DADDY, WHAT IS IT?
WHY THE SERIOUS LOOK?
WELL,
BECAUSE THIS IS KIND OF SUDDEN, I THINK IT'LL GIVE YOU A BIT OF A SHOCK.
Oh, thank you!
Mother, this soup is delicious
YOU HAVE A FIANCE!
FA, FATHER, YOU SURE DO LOVE TO JOKE AROUND
I'M NOT JOKING.
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET MARRIED SO EARLY.
...
WHAT?
WELL? DID IT SHOCK YOU? YOU'RE SHOCKED, RIGHT?


DADDY?
ER...
CHOCK
NAO, YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL UP UNTIL NOW. SO DADDY'S AFRAID THAT YOU'LL GET TRICKED BY BAD MEN.
HE'S NOT OLD ENOUGH YET EITHER, SO WE'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU GUYS GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL FIRST
YUP!
BUT THIS WAY, MOMMY AND DADDY CAN BE RELIEVED
Ha Ha Ha
KA-KLINK


YOU'D BETTER MAKE YOUR-SELF CLEAR!
WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT?!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHEN DID YOU DECIDE THIS KIND OF THING?
UM, CALM DOWN FIRST
HOW CAN YOU TELL ME TO CALM DOWN?!
UM...


SIGH...
HM... ACTUALLY
DADDY'S COMPANY WAS IN A RATHER LARGE CRISIS.
EH?!
YOU MIGHT SAY WE WERE IN DEBT
WE'RE A BIT SHORT ON FUNDS, SO TO SPEAK
Oh honey

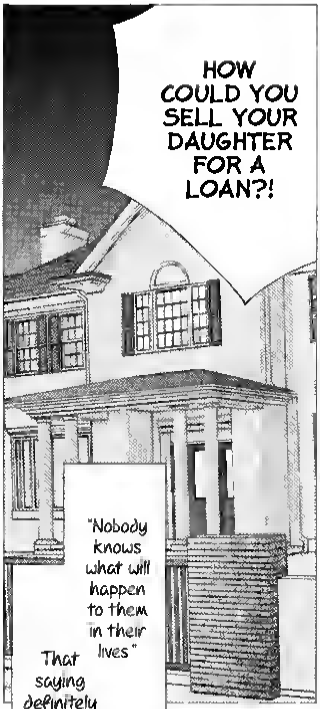

SO, IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THIS DEBT, I BORROWED MONEY FROM AN OLD FRIEND
NO, IT IS NOT SO MUCH "BORROWED" AS THIS FRIEND SUBSIDIZED US!
AH!
UM...
HEY?
WE REALLY MUST THANK THIS FRIEND OF YOURS!

That old friend of mine has a son!
HEAR... HEARING THAT DAD WAS IN DEBT... IS A SHOCK...
BUT I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT THE PERSON WHO ARRANGED TO MARRY ME.

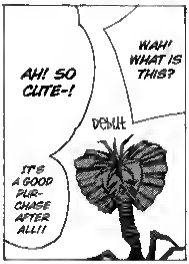
Everyday the Mutou family must go to a supermarket after lunch to buy snacks with toys attached to them.

...
...DON'T TELL ME...
MY FIANCÉ ...

A MONSTER FAN!
I WANNA BUY THIS ONE!
The Monster Series!
Wink!


HOW COULD YOU SELL YOUR DAUGHTER FOR A LOAN?!
"Nobody knows what will happen to them in their lives"
That saying definitely applies here

Yes, that would be his son!
CLATTER
He said this way I don't have to pay him back
How nice of him
Hahahaha


WAH! WHAT IS THIS?
AH! SO CUTE~!
DEWIT
IT'S A GOOD PURCHASE AFTER ALL!!

DISTRESS
YOU
HE LEFT YOU HERE?!
Even though he was so happy to get you!
WHY?

RING
RING
Ring
I won't let you decide my life for me like this!!
And that's how it happened ...
AH...
RING
RING
I DREAMT OF THAT NIGHT AGAIN...
It's already been half a year since Daddy told me the shocking news...

Every night during these past six months
I've had nightmares
NAO,
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO GO TO THAT SCHOOL?
Of course.
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED!
YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL UP 'TIL NOW
AND NOW SUDDENLY YOU'RE GOING TO A CO-ED SCHOOL
MOM, IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, DON'T WORRY!
If you're scared it's still not too late to return to your old school!
THAT'S RIGHT, NAO~

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO GO TO A CO-ED SCHOOL!!
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?!
NO! THAT.
I CAN'T DO.
BUT IF DADDY CANCELS THIS MARRIAGE,
THEN I WILL GO BACK TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL
smile
HMPH!
disappointed
AH... NAO!
THERE IS NO WAY DADDY CAN REFUSE THIS ENGAGEMENT IN HIS CURRENT SITUATION,
BUT HE ALSO FEELS THAT THIS IS UNFAIR TO ME.
I KNOW THAT

Sparkle
REALLY? THEN...
THAT'S WHY I MUST TRANSFER TO KAE!
I'LL GO TALK IT OUT WITH MY FIANCE, AND ASK HIM TO BREAK OFF THE ENGAGEMENT
WHEN IT COMES TO DADDY'S SITUATION,
I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.
SINCE THE OTHER PARTY'S ALSO BEING FORCED INTO THIS ENGAGEMENT,
I BELIEVE THAT HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO GET MARRIED EITHER!
I'LL GO TALK IT OUT WITH HIM. HE'LL UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S WHY I'LL WORK HARD!

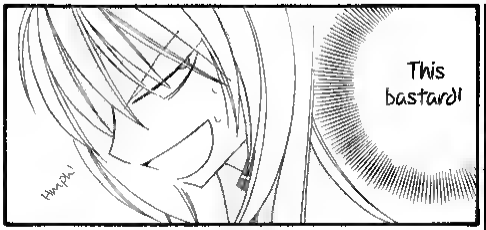
I'M OFF!
Be careful!
NO, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BREAK OFF THE ENGAGEMENT ON HIS OWN, IF HE WANTED...
AH...
Depressed
Sorry, Daddy.
It's not that I hate you.
It's just that I've had enough
I understand Dad's situation very well
so I know that there's no way we can take the initiative to cancel the marriage
Daddy probably also feels really bad about this, right?
I think he does!!
That's why...

I HAVE TO GO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM DIRECTLY!!
I've decided!
STEP
It took so long just to get six hints out of him.
First he's a student at Kaei Academy.
Hmmm
IN THE END DAD WOULDN'T EVEN TELL ME HIS NAME!
THAT'S RIGHT!! THAT'S THE PROBLEM!
WHO?
The other five hints are...
WHO'S THERE?!

Eek
...
A guy!
Another one! And yet another!
AH!

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE... AFRAID OF GUYS, WOULD YOU?
Why are all the people here male?!
I... I'M NOT SCARED!
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN GOING TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, SO I FIND IT WEIRD
WAIT A MINUTE! WHY DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU?!
What ?!
KAE! WAS AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL UP 'TIL LAST YEAR.
Wha...
IT BECAME CO-ED JUST THIS YEAR, SO THERE AREN'T MANY GIRLS HERE.
Didn't you start explaining on your own?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW, SO I'LL TELL YOU..

BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
SINCE YOU'RE NOT SCARED!
smirk


This bastard!
Hmph!

IF YOU KEEP SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD LIKE THAT,
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN PEOPLE'S WAY! HURRY UP AND MOVE!
step step

Are you sick?
Are you all right?
You must be kidding me!!!
I have to stay here for three years?

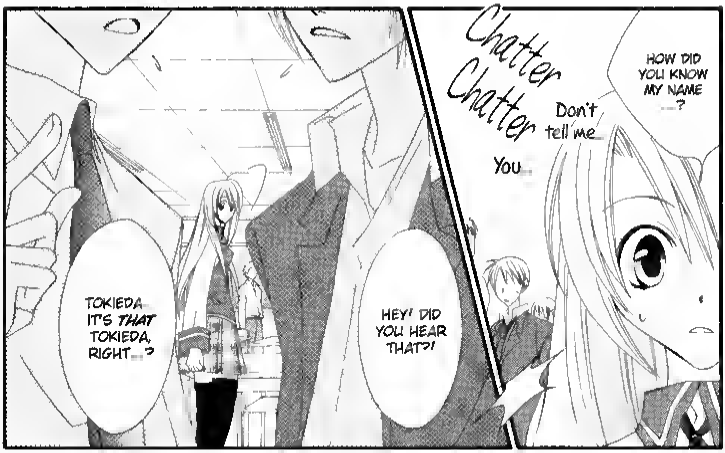
Sweet!
And it's a girl!
Oh no! It was still an all-boys school up 'til last year.
STARTLE
I was so busy thinking about my fiance that I failed to notice

I guess I better hurry up and do what I came here for, then transfer schools right away!
...
1-A
Why are there guys every-where?
...

Everyone is looking at me as if I'm some kind of rare creature!
THIS REALLY SUCKS!
Ah! It's a girl!
AREN'T THERE ANY FIRST YEAR GIRLS?!
sneaky sneaky
Man...
Don't tell me I'm the only girl in this class..
Ah!
AHH!!

There's one!!
Waha hahah aha!
heh heh heh
HA!
THIS IS WONDERFUL! I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY GIRL! LET'S GET ALONG FROM NOW ON!
HA?
It's a girl! It's a girl!
Hah!
What are you doing?
YOU... WH-WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?!
WHAT ?!
Nothing!
Heh- Heh- Heh-
YOU ARE THAT GUY FROM BEFORE!!

EH?
I SAID THE ONE YOU'RE HOLDING IS A GUY.
That one.
This one
YOU... YOU BETTER NOT DISTURB THE FRIENDSHIP TIME OF US GIRLS!
Hug
HE'S MALE.
EH?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?!
ARE YOU REALLY THIS CLUELESS?
TOKIEDA NAO-CHAN
EH?!
Don't look
HEH! WOW, YOU ARE SO BOLD!
What a sight!


Chatter Chatter
Don't tell me
You
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME...?
HEY! DID YOU HEAR THAT?!
TOKIEDA IT'S THAT TOKIEDA, RIGHT...?

THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOKIEDA CORPORATION,
ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS.
Wha...?

Seven Stars?!
WHY IS EVERYONE ACTING STRANGE ALL OF A SUDDEN ?
Ah... excuse me...
Smile
Sheep
Ash
UP 'TIL LAST YEAR, THERE WERE ONLY THREE STARS.
YOU'VE HEARD THE NAMES OF THOSE THREE IN SECOND YEAR RIGHT?
THEY ARE ALL FAMOUS FAMILIES.
THE FAMOUS DESIGNER, SAWAMURA, THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT ARISTOCRATIC FAMILY, ASAHINA, AND THE DIRECTOR OF A BIG HOSPITAL, SHIRAKAWA.
THE TERM "STAR" REFERS TO THE PEDIGREE OF THESE FAMILIES
IN THIS YEAR THERE'S ME, SAKAKI MITSURU, THIS GUY, TOONO MINORI,
YOU TOKIEDA NAO,
AND ONE MORE...
THAT WOULD BE ME

Chatter
SAKURAGI KAZUKI
HEY! IS THIS FOR REAL?
IT'S GREAT TO FINALLY MEET YOU!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, ALL THE FOUR OF THE NEW STARS ARE IN THE SAME CLASS!
YOU'RE SAKAKI-KUN AND YOU'RE TOONO-KUN?
AND YOU,
TOKIEDA NAO.

Hello!
Good Morning!
ISN'T THIS GREAT? THE GIRL STUDENT YOU WANTED IS HERE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?

AH, SORRY
I'M JUST FEELING A LITTLE DEPRESSED
LET'S GET ALONG FROM NOW ON..
SLAP
A girl...
sneak peek
There sure are a lot of different kinds!
Hm?
THEN WHY DOESN'T YOUR EXPRESSION MATCH WITH WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
I'M REALLY HAPPY TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS WITH A GIRL LIKE YOU...

SORRY.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THIS "FRIEND GAME"
WHOOSH
BY THE WAY,
SPEAKING OF THE TOKIEDA CORPORATION,
IT SEEMS TO BE IN A BIT OF TROUBLE LATELY, HUH?

THA...
THAT'S...
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU TO GO TO SUCH AN EXPENSIVE SCHOOL?
AH,
OR...
IS IT TO PICK A WEALTHY HUSBAND
FROM ONE OF THE STARS?

Ah!
SO IT'S TRUE?!
EH?! NO! OF COURSE NOT!
NO...
THAT IS A POSSI-BILITY
JUST BY MARRYING ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS FOR POLITICAL REASONS,
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR MONEY SOURCE, RIGHT?
People like us

SINCE EVERYONE HERE IS THE SAME,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE HONEST?
JUST SAY "PLEASE GIVE ME MONEY AND STATUS".
Clench
NO...
BECAUSE ...

BECAUSE I...
HAVEN'T FALLEN IN LOVE EVEN ONCE YET!!
HUH?

Pft!
And then...
I'LL CONFESS MY LOVE FOR HIM!
Ah!
BUT...
I'VE BEEN GOING TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL UP 'TIL NOW
SO I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD MY FIRST CRUSH YET!
AND I'M NOT USED TO BEING AROUND GUYS YET,
WHEN I DO GET MARRIED, IT'LL BE FOR LOVE
I WANT TO DATE MY BOYFRIEND FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS,
TO HAVE FIGHTS EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, AND EAT CAKE TOGETHER FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY
and then...
EH?
Sigh!
BWAHAHA
Mitsuru you're really loud
EH? EH? WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?!
I CAN'T STAND YOU.
EH?

pat
EH?
YOU...
SURE ARE IN-TEREST-ING.
HUH?!
HUH?
HUH?

She looks really happy though!
What... What are you doing?
Heheh
AHHH!
FWP
OH!
NO-THING ..
Heheh
GOOD LUCK THOUGH!
I-I'M GOING TO WORK HARD!!

I have a fiance... you must be kidding me!
rustle
Oh yeah, that's right!
Hmph!
Oh!
Step
I came to Kaei for a reason!
The second hint
he has a tiny mole on his hip
How will I be able to see their hips?
The third hint
the initial of his first name
Plop
I have to find him soon and call off the engagement

Names that start with an M!

<Zero Count Chapter 1 / End>

DragonVoice

Zero Count v01 ch02

Hiromu Mutou

The Credits

Scanner: doodootoo

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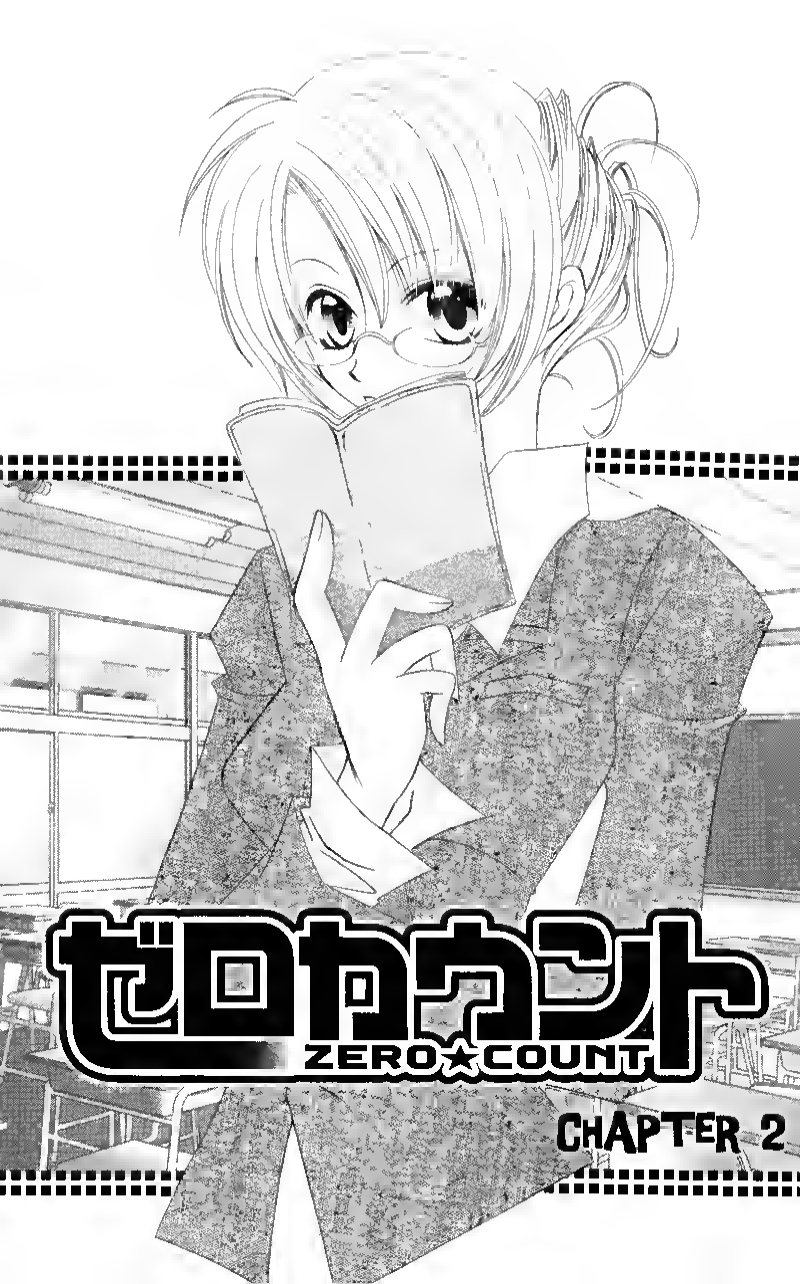
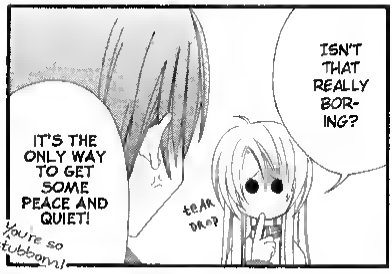
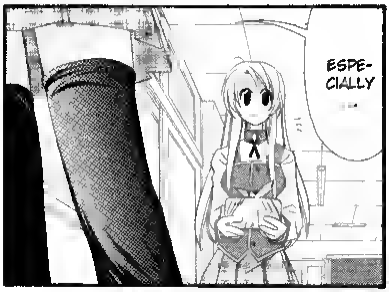

ゼロカウント
ZERO★COUNT
CHAPTER 2

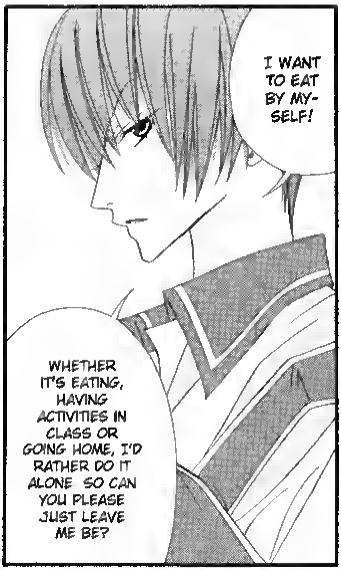
"Nao, you have a fiance!"
I found out about this half a year ago
Daddy's company was having financial difficulties
so he made an arrangement with his friend in exchange for money
Daddy engaged me to his friend's son!
I don't know his name or what he looks like
I only know that he goes to this school and five other hints about him
This spring I Tokieda Nao will leave the all-girls school that I've been attending for many years.
I'm transferring to this co-ed school Kaei Academy

I'm going to this school all by myself just to find my fiance
and I'll convince him to cancel the engagement!
Saku-ragi-san! ♥
Let's-
NO. WAY.
lunch toge-ther!
DIDN'T I AL-READY SAY "NO" ?!
NO.
eat..

Shouldn't you let me finish asking first?
YOU SHOULD ALSO LISTEN TO WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING!
I said no already!
WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS? WHO'S GOING TO EAT WITH ME THEN?!
WE'RE THE ONLY GIRLS IN THIS CLASS! WE NEED TO STICK TOGETHER, RIGHT? RIGHT?
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!!
Aw!
Where are you going?
So annoying!
ARE YOU GOING TO BUY LUNCH? THEN I'LL GO, TOO ..
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A HINT, HUH!


ISN'T THAT REALLY BORING?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET!
TEAR DROP
You're so stubborn!


ESPECIALLY...

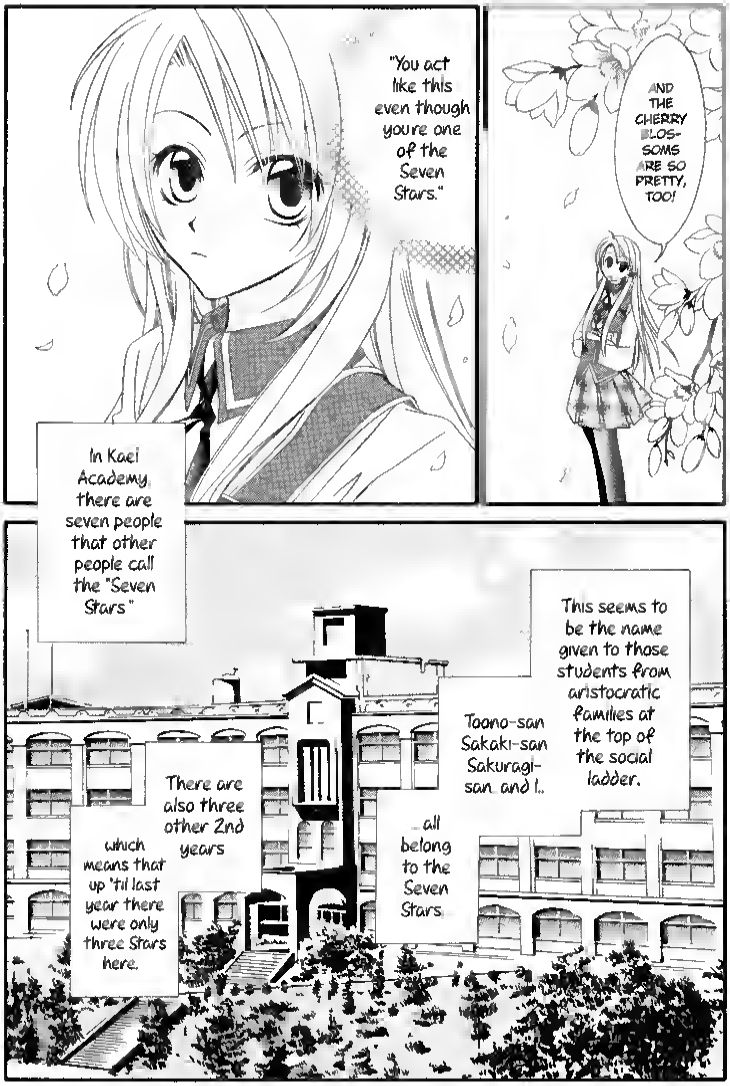

I WANT TO EAT BY MYSELF!
WHETHER IT'S EATING, HAVING ACTIVITIES IN CLASS OR GOING HOME, I'D RATHER DO IT ALONE SO CAN YOU PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME BE?

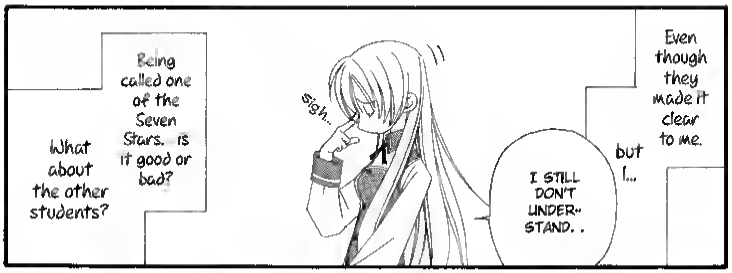
YOU ACT LIKE THIS EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS

WHEN I SEE YOU ACTING SO FRIVOLOUSLY LIKE THIS,
I GET IRRITATED.

Toono-kun! Let's eat toge-
Willing to commit promise sort with person who looks like a girl
I RE-FUSE.
slide
slam
She got away!
Ah!
...
Hmmm...
WHAT ABOUT ME?
slide
slam
He got away, too!
EVERY-ONE'S SO COLD
AHHH!
Wanna eat to-gether?

N-N-NO THANK YOU!
slide
Slam
HEH.
WE SHOULD SPEND LUNCH-TIME BONDING.
LIKE "AH! THIS FRIED EGG IS REALLY GOOD!"
"HOW ABOUT I TRADE YOU FOR THE FRIED OCTOPUS?" "EH? CAN I?"
And so on.
WHERE DID SAKURAGI-SAN ESCAPE TO?
LUNCH DOESN'T TASTE GOOD IF I'M EATING BY MYSELF...
step
DARN IT...


"You act like this even though you're one of the Seven Stars."
AND THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE SO PRETTY, TOO!
In Kaei Academy, there are seven people that other people call the "Seven Stars."
This seems to be the name given to those students from aristocratic families at the top of the social ladder.
Toono-san Sakaki-san Sakuragi-san and I...
...all belong to the Seven Stars.
There are also three other 2nd years
which means that up 'til last year there were only three Stars here.

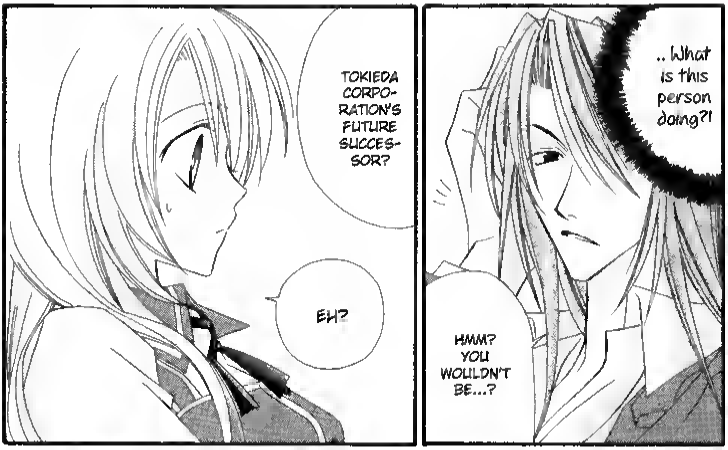

Being called one of the Seven Stars... is it good or bad?
What about the other students?
sigh...
Even though they made it clear to me.
but I...
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND..

IF I SAY THAT TO HER, SHE'LL PROBABLY BECOME EVEN ANGRIER...
Ugh...
Hmph
When I see you acting so frivolously, I get irritated.
No one has ever said those kinds of things to me before.
Ah...
WHAT PRETTY CHERRY BLOSSOMS!
I'VE DECIDED!
I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND HAVE LUNCH HERE...
I still don't quite understand it.

faint
AAAHHHHH!
DID HE FALL ASLEEP? OR IS HE UNCONSCIOUS? MAYBE HE'S EVEN DEAD...?!
WH-WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO... CALL SOMEONE?!
Get him to the hospital?!
The police?!
!!
Feet ?!
He moved!
He's alive!
HMM...
AHH...
RUB
UM, ARE YOU...?
AH...
UM...
ARE YOU OKAY?!

slip
WHY DON'T I GO AND GET THE SCHOOL NURSE.
Ah-?
EH?
.....
.....
...?
WHAT? EH..?
I didn't hear it clearly
GRAB
AAAHHH!!!
PERVERT!
AH!
UM...
HUH?
I've caught a little rabbit...
ha ha

hmm ...?
WHEN DID YOU CATCH IT, SHIRA-KAWA?
Mmph!
HOW RARE YOU GUYS ARE ACTUALLY WORRIED AB--
WE'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
Mm!
You're doing these kinds of things again
WOW!
IF YOU DON'T LET GO QUICKLY, SHE'S GOING TO DIE!
OH!
inhale
DGT
You look fine to me!
How? Are you okay...?
Wha...


TOKIEDA CORPORATION'S FUTURE SUCCESSOR?
EH?
..What is this person doing?!
HMM? YOU WOULDN'T BE...?

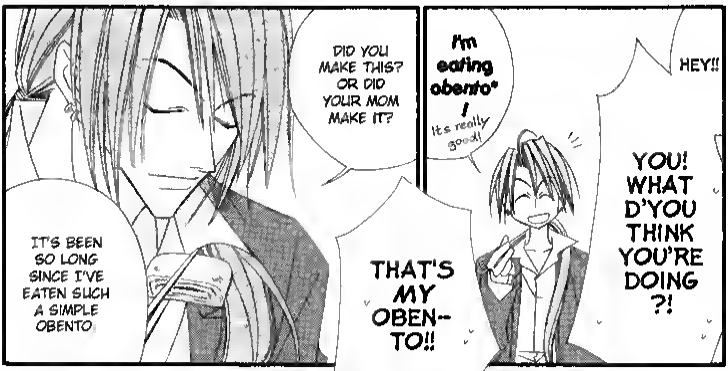
Ah!
UM... ARE YOU GUYS
THE THREE STARS IN SECOND YEAR—?
Eh?
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT!
Ahh~
ONE OF THE NEW SEVEN STARS?
Eh?
YEP, I GO TO SOCIAL GATHERINGS A LOT
Information central!

I'M SECOND YEAR'S SHIRA-KAWA.
THIS GUY IS...
ASAHINA
SAWA-MURA.
EH? YOU'RE ALREADY LEAVING?
I'M NOT INTEREST-ED, SO I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY TIME HERE
AGH!
NOPE, I'M NOT.
GRAB
turn

SO TELL ME NAO,
HOW IS YOUR FAMILY DOING?
Later
I NEED TO LEAVE AS WELL
Gonna go eat!
EH?
I HEARD THAT YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS WAS IN A TIGHT SPOT.
BUT RECENTLY, THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED.

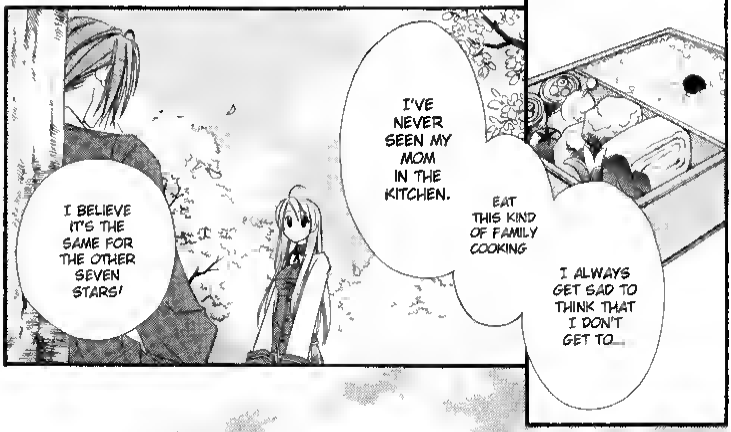
HOW DO YOU
Don't tell me...
KNOW SO MUCH?
OUR FATHERS
ARE OLD FRIENDS
AH...
THEN YOU...
THE OLD SEVEN STARS ALL WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL AND WERE IN THE SAME YEAR.
IT'S SUCH A COINCI-DENCE!
Didn't you know?

ONE OF THOSE SEVEN GUYS... No--AMONG THE FIVE GUYS...
Probably...
AH... SO THE ONE THAT I'M LOOKING FOR OUGHT TO BE...
stare
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
OLD FRIENDS...?
YEP
YEP.
THE OLD SEVEN STARS ARE ALL...
It's too much of a coincidence!!
slump
Wuah!?
OH...
KYOU-ICHI, HUH...?
It's not an M...
It's... KYOU-ICHI.
I should confirm the clues one by one...
If his first name starts with an M.
SHIR-K-W-S-N, YOUR FIRST N.ME IS...

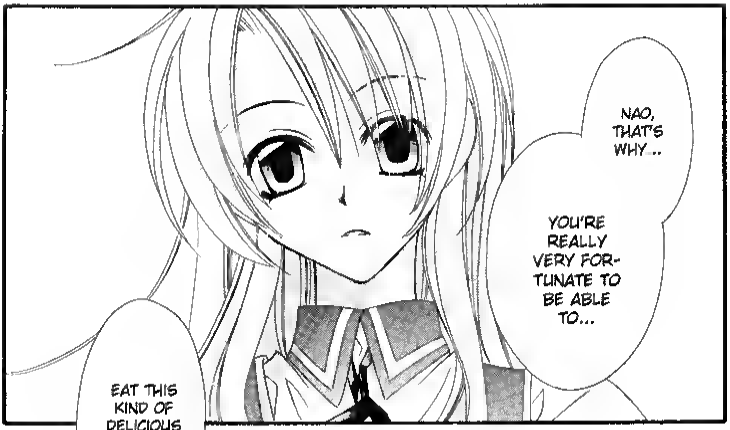

HEY!!
YOU! WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!
I'm eating obento*! It's really good!
DID YOU MAKE THIS? OR DID YOUR MOM MAKE IT?
THAT'S MY OBEN-TO!!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE EATEN SUCH A SIMPLE OBENTO

MY MOM AND I MADE IT TOGETHER
IF YOU DON'T EAT OBENTO, THEN DO YOU USUALLY EAT BREAD?
YEAH, I EITHER EAT BREAD OR NOTHING AT ALL
I USUALLY HAVE TAKE-OUT AT NIGHT
Or it's those overly luxurious gourmet meals

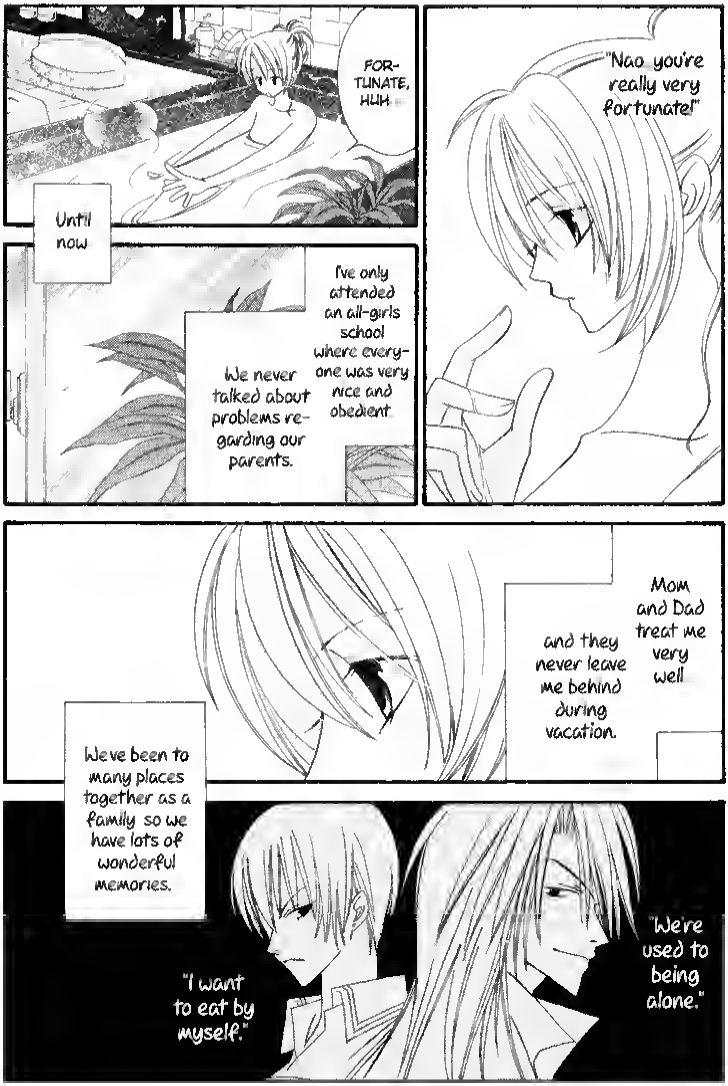
*NOTE OBENTO = BOXED LUNCH


I BELIEVE IT'S THE SAME FOR THE OTHER SEVEN STARS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN MY MOM IN THE KITCHEN.
EAT THIS KIND OF FAMILY COOKING
I ALWAYS GET SAD TO THINK THAT I DON'T GET TO

WE CARRY AROUND ALL KINDS OF BITTERNESS, NOT TRUSTING ANYONE
FOR US, BEING GIVEN THIS TITLE IS REALLY...
A BURDEN.
WE DON'T TAKE ANY-ONE SERI-OUSLY,
AND WE'RE USED TO BEING ALONE.


NAO, THAT'S WHY...
YOU'RE REALLY VERY FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO...
EAT THIS KIND OF DELICIOUS OBENTO!

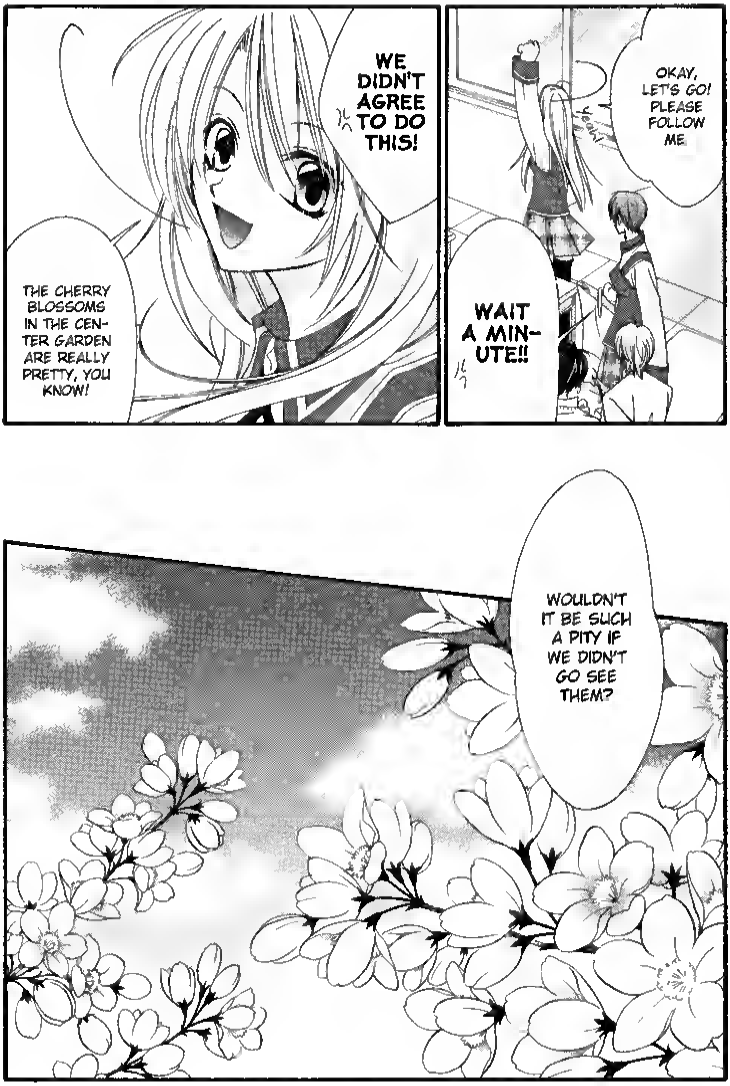
Plop

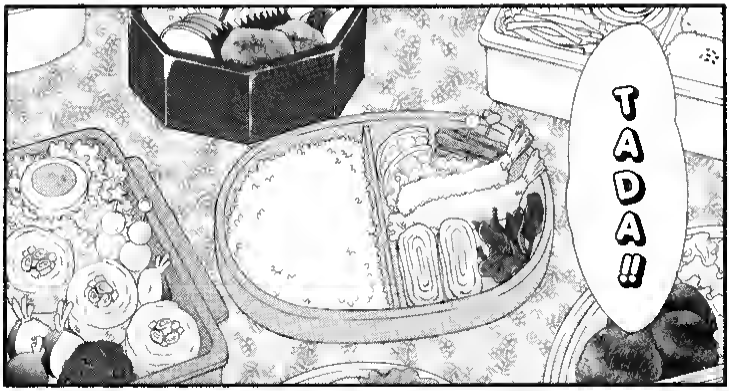

FORTUNATE, HUH
Until now
I've only attended an all-girls school where everyone was very nice and obedient
We never talked about problems regarding our parents.
"Nao you're really very fortunate!"
Mom and Dad treat me very well
and they never leave me behind during vacation.
We've been to many places together as a family so we have lots of wonderful memories.
"I want to eat by myself."
"We're used to being alone."

I can't help but feel that this is a bit ironic.
MOST PEOPLE DON'T TALK ABOUT PEDIGREE
SPLASH
Now I understand the meaning.
I thought it was strange that Sakaki-kun..
used the word "pedigree" when he was telling me about the Seven Stars
SO THAT'S WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT
When I see you acting frivolous like this, I get irritated.
You act like this even though you're one of the Seven Stars.
Since I've..
never been treated like that.
MOM!
I don't understand these kind of things.

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO HELP ME WITH,
IS THAT OKAY?
I'm beginning to understand a bit more
All right.
It's lunch time!

Let's eat obento toge-ther! ♥
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
STOP JOKING AROUND, I WANT TO EAT ALO---
AH! SAKU-RAGI-SAN
LIFT UP
SAKURAGI-SAN, PLEASE HELP ME CARRY THIS.
Here
WHA?!
YOU GUYS HOLD THIS ONE AND THIS ONE.
IT'S A BIT HEAVY, BUT DO YOUR BEST!


WE DIDN'T AGREE TO DO THIS!
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN THE CENTER GARDEN ARE REALLY PRETTY, YOU KNOW!
OKAY, LET'S GO! PLEASE FOLLOW ME.
WAIT A MINUTE!!
WOULDN'T IT BE SUCH A PITY IF WE DIDN'T GO SEE THEM?


TADA!!

HOW IS IT?
How is it?
How is it?!
DID YOU MAKE THIS, TOKIEDA?

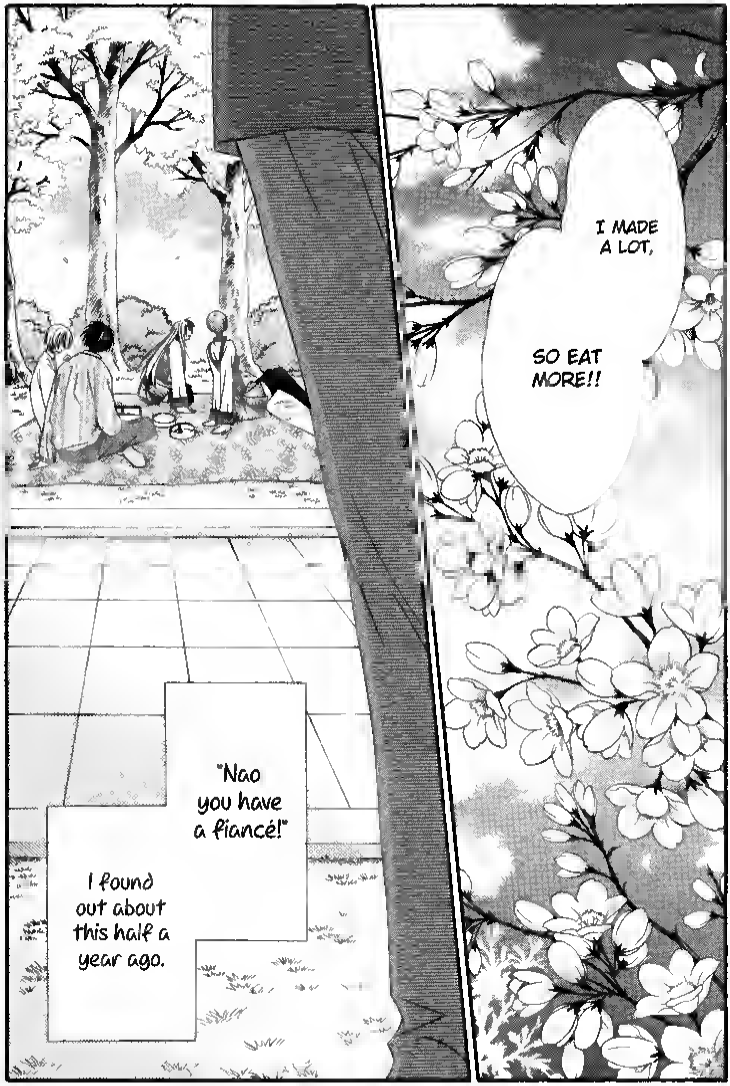
WOW! INCREDIBLE!
HO HO HO!

PICK UP

Yay! I got up really early and worked really hard to make it!
MITSURU, YOU TRY IT FIRST TO SEE IF IT'S POISONED.
Here
Just like a fool.
Meanie!
Hey!

IT'S REALLY GOOD!
Who would've thought?
CHEW CHEW
...
How is it?
How does it taste ?!
...
HMM ...
...
SAKURAGI, SINCE THIS IS SO RARE, WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT AS WELL?
NO THANKS, I'M NOT HUNGRY ANYWAY.
I JUST HAVE TO EAT THIS, RIGHT?
FINE, I'LL EAT!
Just one though!
Geez!
Why are you forcing me to eat?
Well, I'm here already so I might as well.

...
HOW IS IT ...?
AH!
IT'S.. IT'S ALL RIGHT ...
turn
Hm?
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT!
THANK YOU!


I MADE A LOT,
SO EAT MORE!!
"Nao you have a fiancé!"
I found out about this half a year ago.

HEH
I don't know what his name is or what he looks like.
There's a tiny mole on his hip, his first name starts with an M and on the back of his neck...
I only know which school he goes to and five other hints about him
...there is a flower-shaped mole.

〈Zero Count Chapter 2 / End〉

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Zero Count v01 ch03

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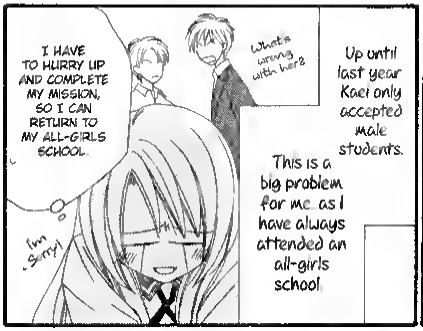
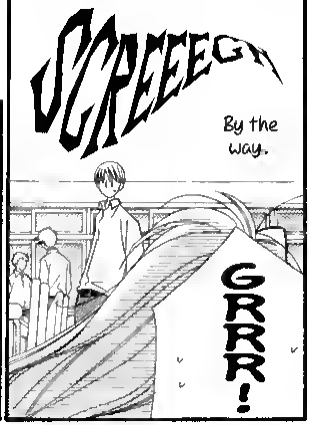
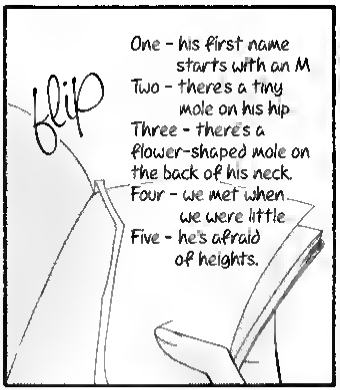
ゼロカウント
ZERO★COUNT
CHAPTER 3

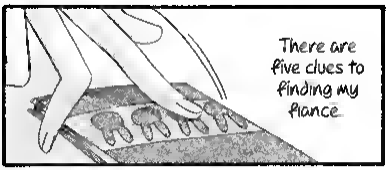
The son of the old friend that lent my daddy money is my
Tokieda Nao's fiance.
I came to Kaei Academy just to see him...
...and ask him to cancel the engage-ment!!
HMM...
Even though I'm saying this I don't know what the other person looks like
or what his name is... It's difficult to find him like this!
Thud
SIGH
HMM.
SORRY

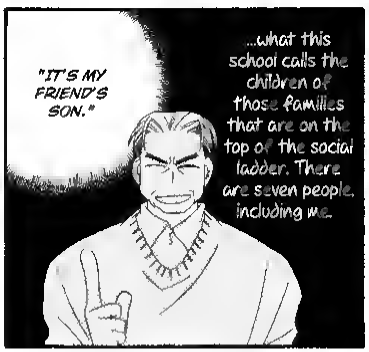

I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND COMPLETE MY MISSION, SO I CAN RETURN TO MY ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL.
I'm sorry!
What's wrong with her?
Up until last year Kaei only accepted male students.
This is a big problem for me, as I have always attended an all-girls school.


SCREEECH
By the way...
GRRR!


flip
One - his first name starts with an M
Two - there's a tiny mole on his hip
Three - there's a flower-shaped mole on the back of his neck.
Four - we met when we were little
Five - he's afraid of heights.

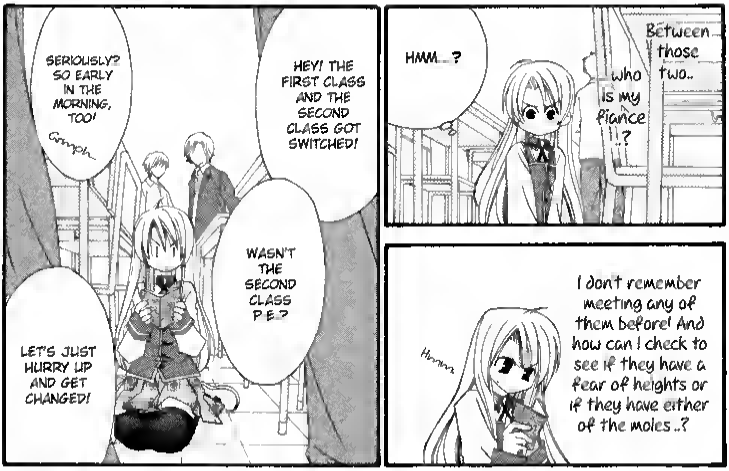
That's right...

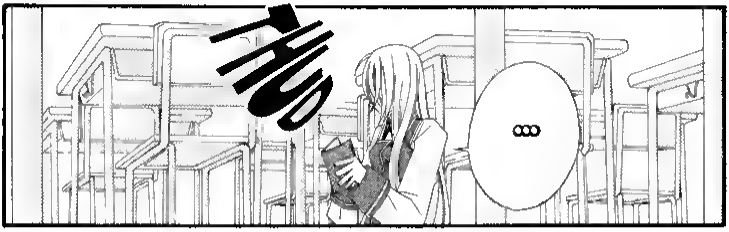

There are five clues to finding my fiance.

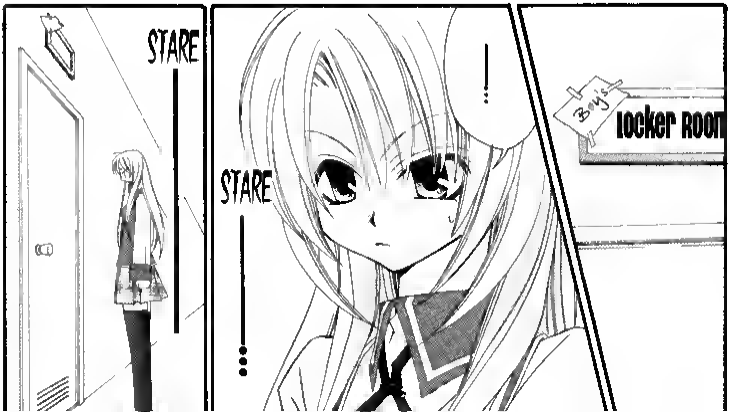

"IT'S MY FRIEND'S SON."
...what this school calls the children of those families that are on the top of the social ladder. There are seven people, including me.

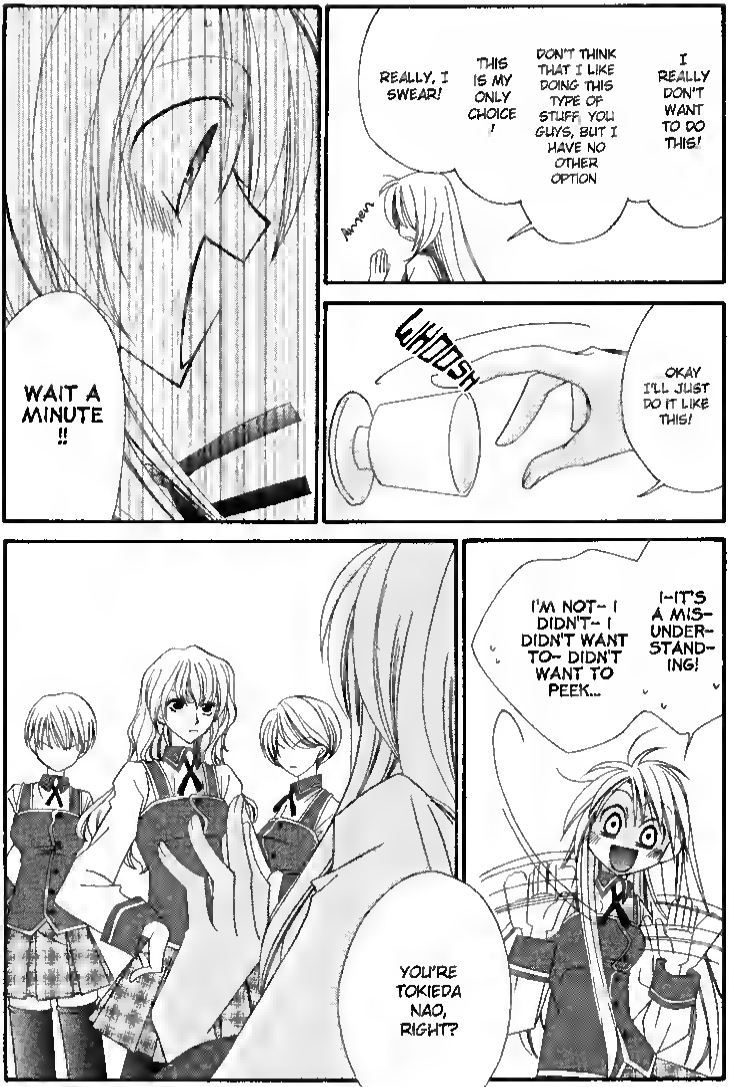
And...
When I say "Seven Stars" I'm talking about...
WHICH ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS IS HE...?

Five...
Second Year's Shirakawa Kyouichi Sawamura Yuu Asahina Touru..
Shirakawa, one of the seven stars, said once told me...
...that all of the fathers of the seven stars are friends.
Besides me, there's one other girl in the Seven Stars
Which means that there are five possible candidates left.
Finally
the ones that have the first initial of M among the five people are...
And
my classmates Toono-kun and Sakaki-kun.
Toono Minori and...
...Sakaki Mitsuru.
Only these two people.


SERIOUSLY? SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, TOO!
Gnnnnnn
HEY! THE FIRST CLASS AND THE SECOND CLASS GOT SWITCHED!
WASN'T THE SECOND CLASS P.E.?
LET'S JUST HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED!
HMM...?
Between those two..
who is my fiance..?
Hmmm
I don't remember meeting any of them before! And how can I check to see if they have a fear of heights or if they have either of the moles..?


THUD
...


STARE
STARE
!
Boys
locker ROOM


I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
DON'T THINK THAT I LIKE DOING THIS TYPE OF STUFF, YOU GUYS, BUT I HAVE NO OTHER OPTION
THIS IS MY ONLY CHOICE !
REALLY, I SWEAR!
Ammm
OKAY I'LL JUST DO IT LIKE THIS!
WHOOSH
WAIT A MINUTE !!
I-IT'S A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING!
I'M NOT- I DIDN'T- I DIDN'T WANT TO- DIDN'T WANT TO PEEK...
YOU'RE TOKIEDA NAO, RIGHT?

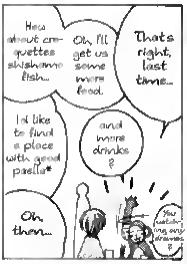
DON'T THINK THAT I'LL FALL FOR THAT!
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT FROM THE SAME CLASS LET'S BECOME GOOD FRIENDS OK?
WHICH CLASS ARE YOU FROM?
AH?
Girls!!
This time we have to eat lunch together
GRIP
AH! I'M TOKIEDA NAO FROM CLASS A!
HOW SHAME-LESS!
EH?
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO EXPLAIN!!
EH? THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL
A FEW DAYS AGO, YOU WERE EATING LUNCH WITH TOONO-KUN, RIGHT?
AND THE BENTO HE WAS EATING WAS HOME-MADE BY YOU...
AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO ARROGANT ?
POINT
EVEN IF YOU ARE IN THE SAME CLASS, AND YOU ARE ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS,
Turn
This sounds like...
AH... I'M NOT..
Eh?
CLICK

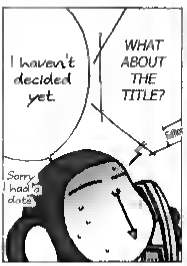
.....
STRIDE STRIDE
AH! HE TOTALLY IGNORED ME?
So lonely...!
...
...
UWAH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IN THE END I DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE TINY MOLE
N-N-NOTHING!
LET GO OF ME...

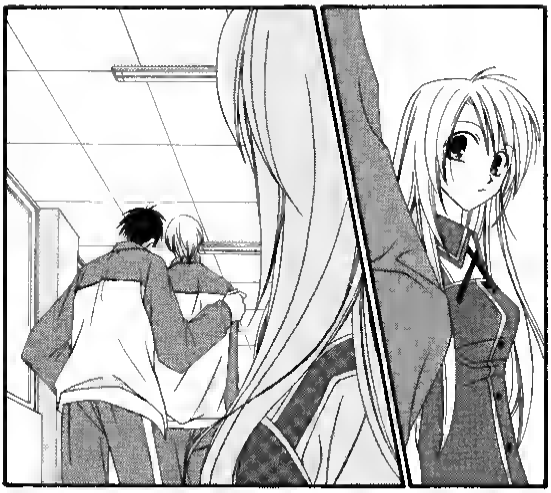
WHA?
OH... SO THESE TWO ARE PRETTY POPULAR, HUH...
FTH!
ROAR
FIERY HOT GLARE
AH, REALLY?!
OH
NO-THING!
LET GO OF ME!
GEEZ!
I'M HER FAITHFUL FAN!
I SWEAR IT'S TRUE! I SAW IT ON TV LAST NIGHT!
WHAT IS IT?
KYOUKA? REALLY? THAT ACTRESS?
ISN'T SHE LIVING IN AMERICA?
IS SHE HERE TO ADVERTISE HER MOVIE?
APPARENTLY, THAT'S NOT THE MAIN REASON!
TACHIBANA KYOUKA CAME TO JAPAN!!

THE REASON SHE CAME IS BECAUSE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HER AND THAT ACTOR SHE CAME TO JAPAN WITH, DICK FARKER!
I HEARD THEY HAVE AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD!
SQUEAK
BUT ISN'T KYOUKA SINGLE?
An illegitimate child?
THAT'S WHY IT'S A PROBLEM!
HER AND DICK'S CHILD? NO WAY! ARE THEY GOING TO GET MARRIED?
THEY HAVE A CHILD, ALREADY. ...

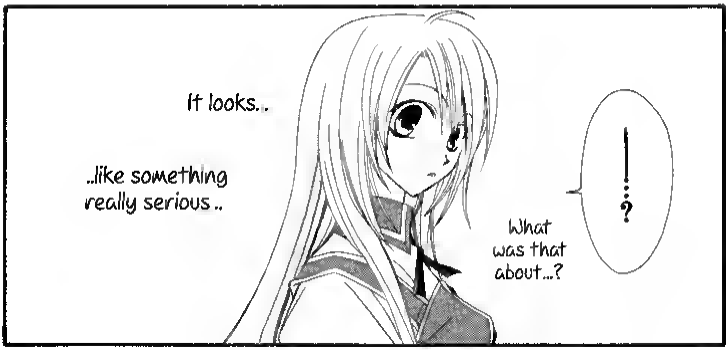
What are we celebrating?
In a wine house
Let's toast first!!
Celebrating what? I might care if I actually knew what's happening
Like


How about croquettes shishamo fish...
Oh, I'll get us some more food.
That's right, last time...
I'd like to find a place with good paella*
and more drinks?
Oh then...
You watching my figure?





*Note: Paella is a rice dish that originally comes from Valencia (Spain) and is usually garnished with vegetables and meat or seafood. The three main ingredients are rice, saffron and olive oil


It looks..
..like something really serious..
What was that about...?
!?

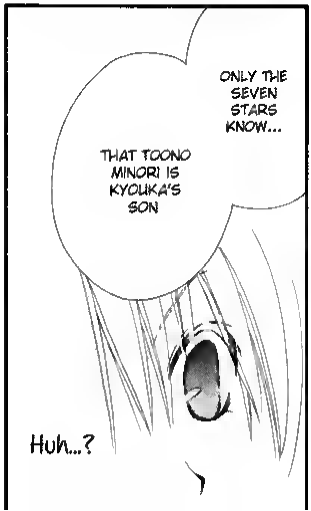
DAZED
1-A
GEEZ, WHY DO WE HAVE TO STUDY BY OURSELVES WHEN BOYS HAVE P.E.?
This stupid school!
IT'S A BIT CHILLY!
AH! SORRY..

Maybe she knows...
JUST NOW I HEARD
KYOUKA
KITSU KYOUKA AND TOONO-KU

HMM ?
Sakuragi-san

SLAM
WAH ?!
OOMF ?!

EH?
YOU CAN'T SAY THIS OUT LOUD!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SOMEONE HEARD YOU?!


ONLY THE SEVEN STARS KNOW...
THAT TOONO MINORI IS KYOUKA'S SON
Huh...?

NO.
I HEARD A REPORT ON TV...
EH? THEN WHICH ACTOR IS TOONO-KUN'S FATHER? DICK, RIGHT?
IS THE ILLEGITI-MATE CHILD TOONO-KUN?
EH...?
BLANK LOOK
!!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW...?
NOD NOD
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE THINGS THAT WERE SAID ON THE TELEVISION?
I'M NOT TOO SURE MYSELF.
KYOUKA HAS ALWAYS KEPT IT A SECRET THAT SHE HAD A SON
THIS BIT OF NEWS CAN'T BE LEAKED!
TOONO-SAN'S GRANDFATHER ALSO ADDED SOME PRESSURE AND HIS GRANDFATHER'S POWER SHOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY

I GUESS THIS MUST BE A REALLY BIG SHOCK TO TOONO-SAN...
HE MIGHT NOT KNOW!
YOU MUST KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE,
INCLUDING TOONO HIMSELF!

Even though that's what Sakuragi-san said...
...

WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
Since that conversation the situation has gotten worse!
I CAN'T LET TOONO-KUN SEE THIS!
Meeze
Meeze
BRINGING THIS KIND OF MAGAZINE TO SCHOOL
Geez
She is...
Toono-kun's mom...

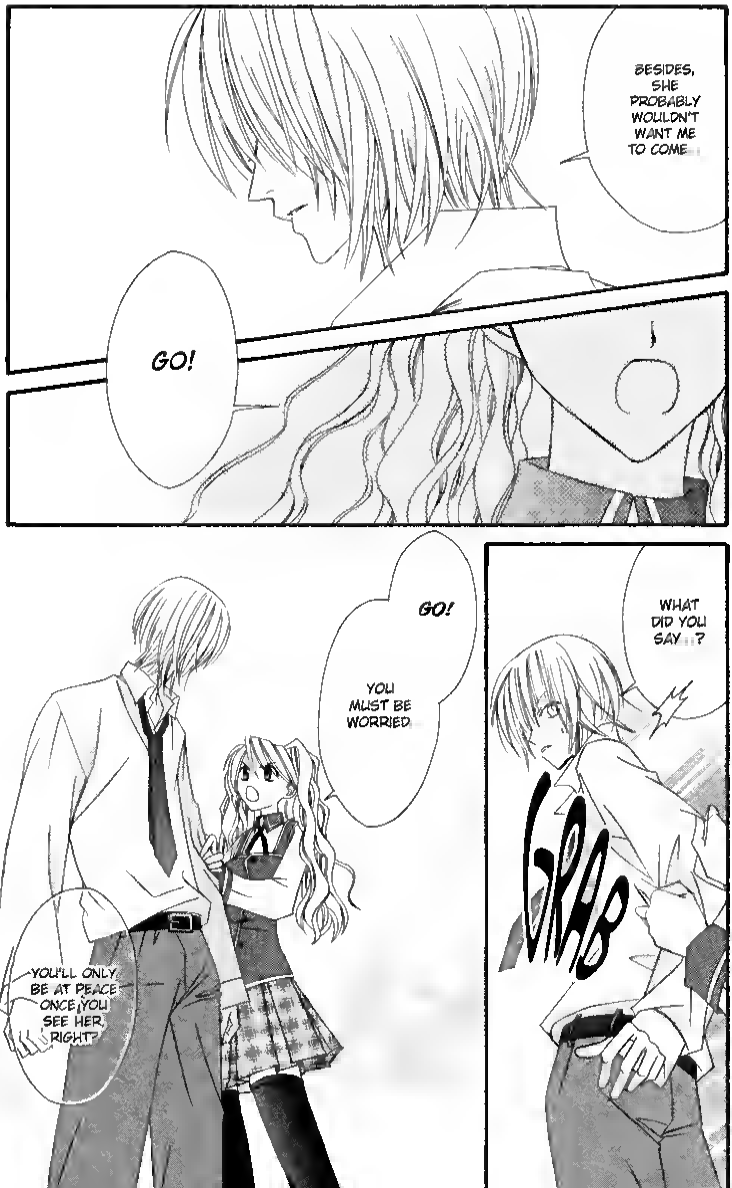
Everybody is making such a big fuss...
I HEARD SHE LIVES IN ANOTHER COUNTRY... HER COMING BACK IS REALLY UNUSUAL...
IS IT SUCH A BIG SECRET THAT THEY HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN EACH OTHER?
Is he really calm deep inside?
FLOP
Calm
...but Taono-kun remains so calm...
RATTLE
THUD
THUD
BIG NEWS !!

I JUST SAW ON THE TV IN THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE THAT KYOUKA WAS IN AN ACCIDENT
AND SHE'S BEEN TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL !!
REALLY ?!
WAIT... I WANT TO GO WATCH IN THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE, TOO!
ME, TOO!!

TOONO-KUN
gift
...WHAT IS IT?
UM...

AH UM...
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?
WHAT IS IT?
WHY SHOULD I GO? THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT!
BUT... YOUR MOTHER, SHE..
SLAM
AH...!

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HER IS A SECRET, RIGHT?
SINCE YOU KNOW THIS,
YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT...
NO ONE MUST KNOW!
EVEN IF I GO TO THE HOSPITAL NOW,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.
I'LL JUST BE A NUISANCE TO HER ANYWAY...
NOTHING WILL CHANGE EVEN IF I GO


BESIDES, SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T WANT ME TO COME...
GO!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
GRAB
GO!
YOU MUST BE WORRIED.
YOU'LL ONLY BE AT PEACE ONCE YOU SEE HER, RIGHT?

GO!
IT'S OK FOR CHILDREN TO BE SPOILED BY THEIR PARENTS!
WHEN YOU WANT TO SEE HER, THEN GO SEE HER!
CHILDREN GET WORRIED WHEN THEIR MOTHER IS INJURED, RIGHT?
DON'T DECIDE THIS ALL ON YOUR OWN—
JUST GO!
THE HOSPITAL IS SHIRA-KAWA'S

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE YET.
PULL
JUST GO!!
A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME!

YOUR MOTHER WILL DEFINITELY BE ALL RIGHT!
SINCE SHE'S A CELEBRITY,
THEY'RE ALL REPORT-ERS!
YEAH...
HERE SHE COMES!

MISS KYOUKA, PLEASE SAY A FEW WORDS.
HOW'S YOUR INJURY?
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING EVERYONE WORRIED!
I WAS ONLY HIT IN THE WAIST, SO IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
HOWEVER, I CAME FOR A CHECK-UP JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE
AH, THAT'S GREAT! SHE LOOKS JUST FINE
Sigh
MISS KYOUKA
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS RUMOR?
IT SAYS THAT YOU AND DICK HAVE AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD,
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY REGARDING THAT?

SORRY, BUT THAT IS ONLY A RUMOR
DICK AND I ARE ONLY CO-WORKERS
THEN THE RUMOR THAT YOU AND HE HAVE A CHILD.
THAT IS ANOTHER.
LET'S GO! THIS IS ENOUGH
THAT IS JUST...
ANOTHER FABRICATED RUMOR
Rustle
BECAUSE I ONLY HAVE ONE SON.

...AND THAT'S HIM

YOU NEVER CAME TO SEE ME ONCE ON YOUR OWN THESE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS
I BEGAN TO THINK THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT ME AS YOUR MOTHER ANYMORE!
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE THIS MOTHER OF YOURS ..
BUT, THIS IS WONDER-FUL ...
YOU FINALLY CAME TO SEE ME!
THANK YOU FOR COMING
YOU'VE GROWN UP,
MINORI!

<Zero Count Chapter 3 / End>

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Zero Count v01 ch04

Hiromu Mutou

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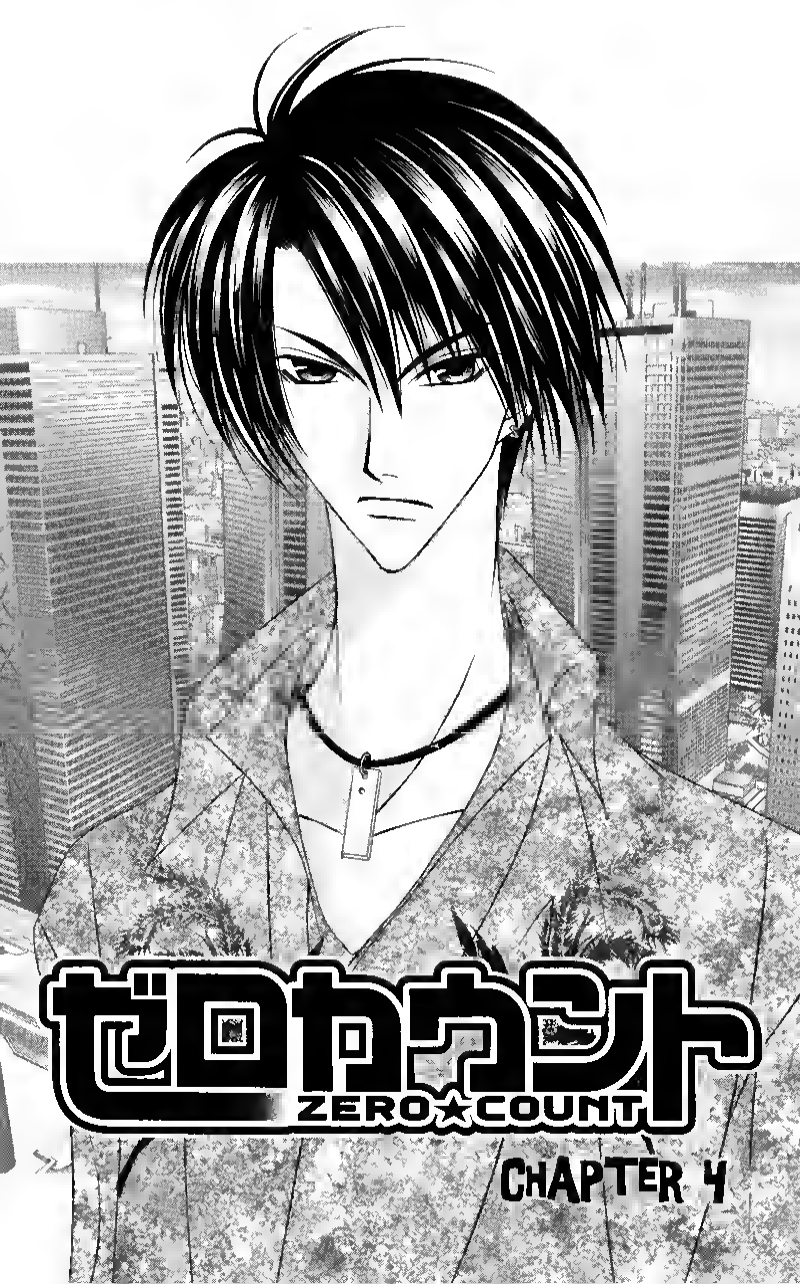
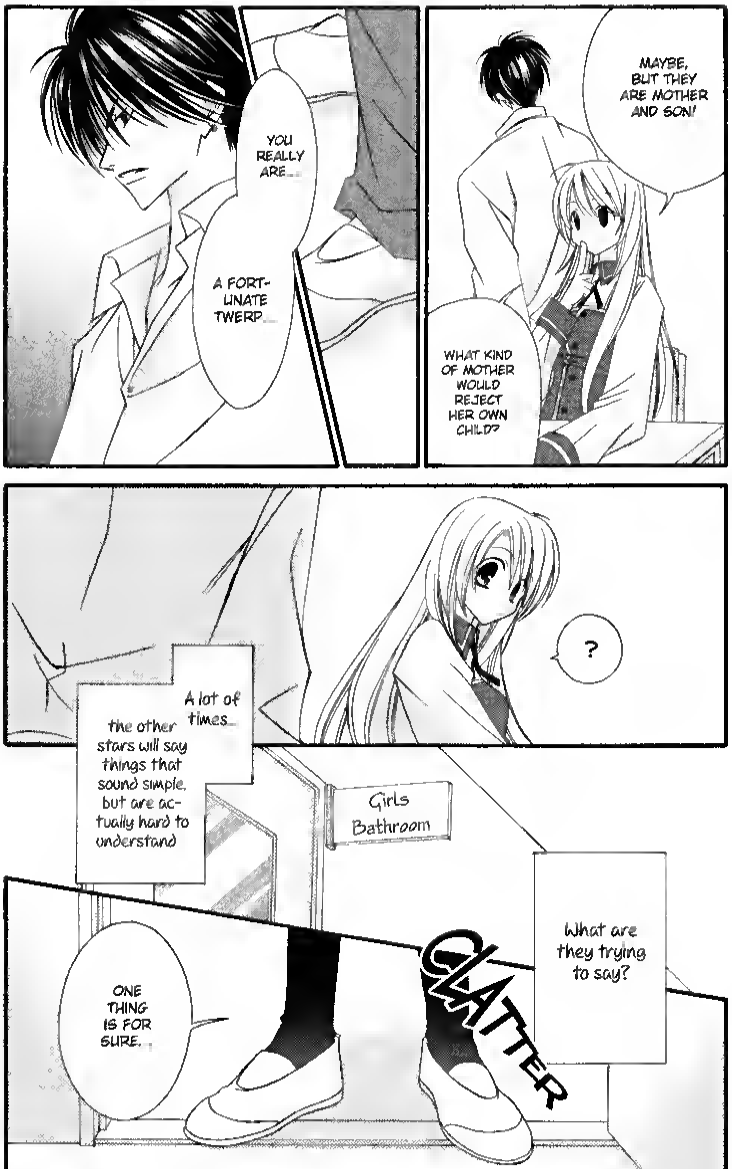

ゼロカウント
ZERO★COUNT
CHAPTER 4

TACHIBANA KYOUKA
A FAMOUS PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL FIRST YEAR STUDENT! EXPOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME!!!
The day after we saw Kyouka,
both newspapers and television stations alike used Toono-kun and the actress Tachibana Kyouka as headlines
Even though the headlines are everywhere the school itself remains quiet.
THIS IS THE POWER OF THE STAR.
That is what Sakaki-kun said.
"TOKIEDA."
But...
That just goes to show how much power the stars have, and how afraid people are of them.
Which also means that they are putting pressure on the media

Toono-kun's mother publicly acknowledged him even though his grandfather had been putting pressure on people to keep that fact a secret
"THANK YOU."
...when we got back, Toono-kun said
yoink
AH!
Toono-kun and Miss Kyouka seem to be really happy..
That's great!
GRIN
hee hee
YOU EVEN CUT THIS OUT?!
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU FOLLOW THESE KINDS OF THINGS SO WELL
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
Ah! It's all crinkly now!
SWISH
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
Give it back!
clack

BECAUSE THEY LOOK REALLY HAPPY IN THIS PICTURE!
I FEEL HAPPY WHEN I LOOK AT IT...
YOU SHOULDN'T MIND THE AFFAIRS OF THE STARS TOO MUCH
LIKE WITH MINORI'S CASE BEING A SUCCESS, THAT'S A GOOD THING,
BUT IF IT HAD BEEN A FAILURE, THEN THINGS WOULD JUST GET WORSE
HE COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN REJECTED!
YOU ARE SO.


YOU REALLY ARE...
A FORT-UNATE TWERP...
MAYBE, BUT THEY ARE MOTHER AND SON!
WHAT KIND OF MOTHER WOULD REJECT HER OWN CHILD?
?
A lot of times... the other stars will say things that sound simple, but are actually hard to understand
Girls Bathroom
What are they trying to say?
CLATTER
ONE THING IS FOR SURE...

I only have five clues on who it is.
SSS
I transferred from an all-girls school to this co-ed school Kaei Academy
In an attempt to get the fiancé decided for me by my father to cancel the engagement
"A fortunate twerp" = "A twerp without troubles"?
Heh
...I KNOW THEY'RE NOT COMPLIMENTING ME
SLAM
I ALSO HAVE MY TROUBLES!
In particular the current trouble that is ruining my life!
There's a tiny mole on his lip, the initial of his first name is "M", there's a flower-shaped mole on the back of his neck, he's afraid of heights and he's someone I met when I was little...
And among the Seven Stars...
...the only ones who have the initial "M" are Toono Minori and Sakaki Mitsuru
I HAVE ONLY INVESTIGATED UP TO HERE FOR NOW
Hmmm
IN THE END I'VE ONLY DISCOVERED THE INITIALS
Hmmm
tak
I'm still doing my best to look for the other clues
Huh?

Hands?!
whoosh
Wh-wh-why did a pair of hands appear there?!
DON'T.. DON'T TELL ME THIS IS A HAND DEMON?
Waaah!
bounce
bounce
duck
Ah. aha?
WAIT... IT'S MORE THAN A PAIR OF HANDS...?

Ah.
...
So cute!
UH, WAIT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN AWAY!
clack
WHAT IS IT?
DID YOU GET LOST? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
...EITO
HMM?

SAKAKI EITO,
HAS COME TO FIND HIS BIG BROTHER!
...
1-A
SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE TO SEE YOU!
Hehehe
WHO KNEW YOU HAD SUCH A CUTE LITTLE BROTHER
IT REALLY GAVE ME A SHOCK!
TOKIEDA
HM?
Murmur
Oh, he's
Sigh! Sakaki's little brother?
ANYWAY, LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE FIRST!
Sigh

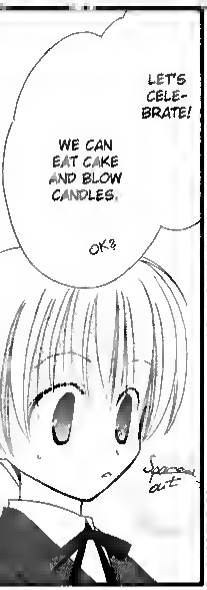
EH... AH...
KEEP OUT OF THIS!
Lift
WAH!
SAKAKI-KUN?!
図書室
Open
Tap
...WHAT IS IT?

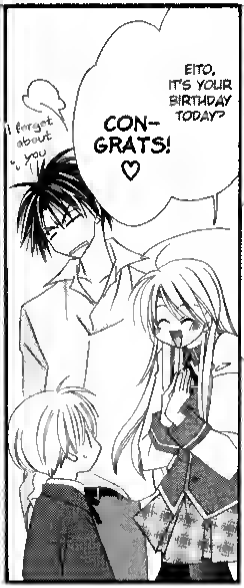
grab
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW US AS WEL?
AH! IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT..
Um 2
phew
EITO.
DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT MAD
Pull
WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?
SLAM
IS IT A HOLIDAY TODAY?
YUP, TODAY IS THE SCHOOL'S ESTABLISH-MENT ANNI-VERSARY

It's the first time I've seen Sakaki-kun have that kind of gentle expression.
What a warm feeling
BROTHERS... HOW WONDERFUL
MOM DROVE ME HERE...
...OF COURSE NOT
He's a good big brother!
IT...
IT'S TRUE!
I... THAT'S WHY...
BUT DON'T TELL ME YOU CAME RUNNING HERE BY YOURSELF?
Pat
!
Reach
Tremble

LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER OK?
NO!
AND TODAY IS...
I FINALLY GOT MOMMY TO SAY YES...
AH... I SAID I'D GO TO BIG BROTHER'S HOUSE TODAY!

OK, I GOT IT
GO GET YOUR BACKPACK FIRST.
pat pat


LET'S CELEBRATE!
WE CAN EAT CAKE AND BLOW CANDLES.
OK?
Yuzuna art


EITO, IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY?
CONGRATS! ♡
I forgot about you

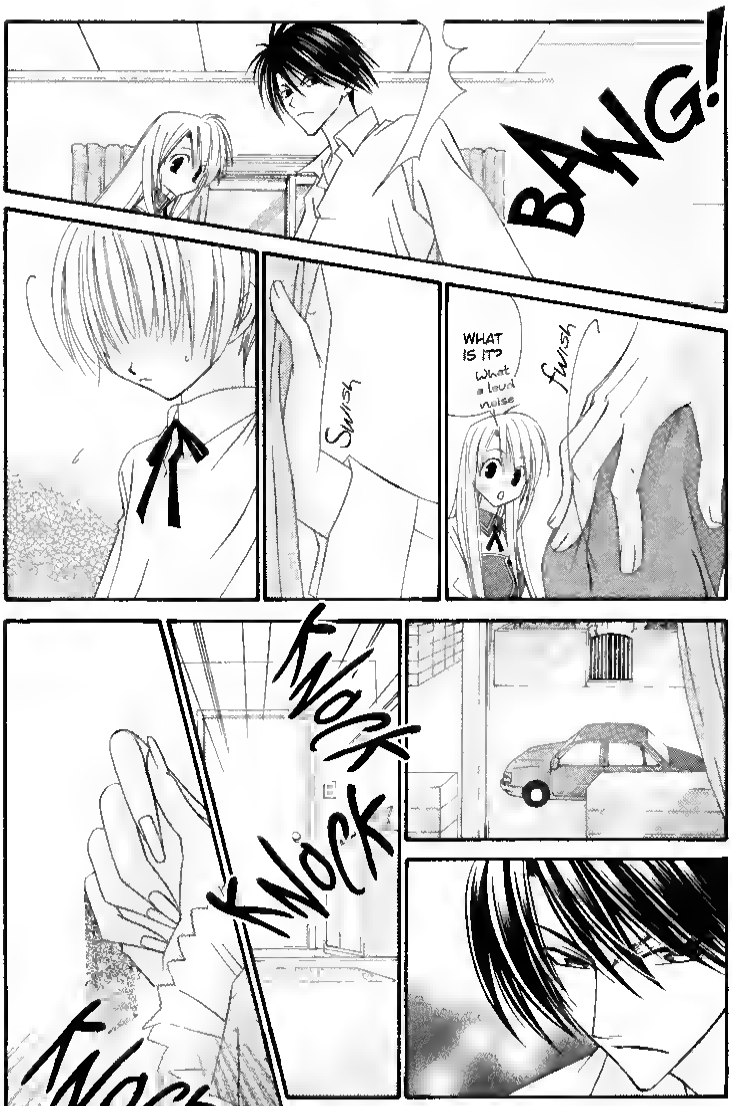
TODAY
IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?
YUP!
BIG BROTHER REMEMBERS?

LET'S CELE-BRATE!!
HEY! DON'T GO DECIDING THIS ON YOUR OWN!
Pfft
I want to celebrate too!!!
I want to, too!
EH!
URK!
Can we?
LET'S CELE-BRATE!
COME ON! COME ON, COME ON!!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!!
YAY!!

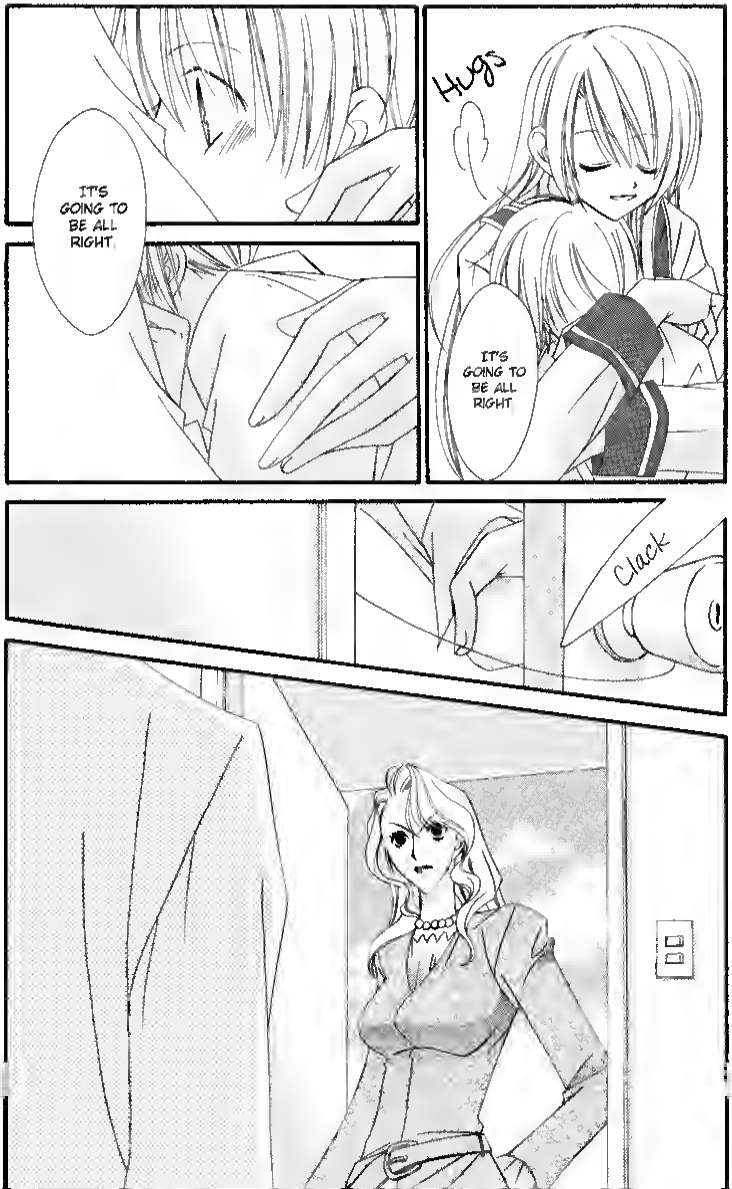
2-1
EITO, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
Woa! So cool!!
THIS IS NAO'S SPECIAL HOME-MADE CAKE! ♡
TADA!
HERE! SORRY FOR MAKING YOU GUYS WAIT!
OK, SO WE'LL PUT TEN CANDLES.
10 years old.
HERE, EITO, TIME TO BLOW THE CANDLES!! ♥
IT'S STILL SO BRIGHT OUTSIDE!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
HERE,
SAKAKI-KUN'S JOB IS TO LIGHT THE CANDLES!

BLOW
BLOW
haaaa
FSSH...
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!!
Thank you!

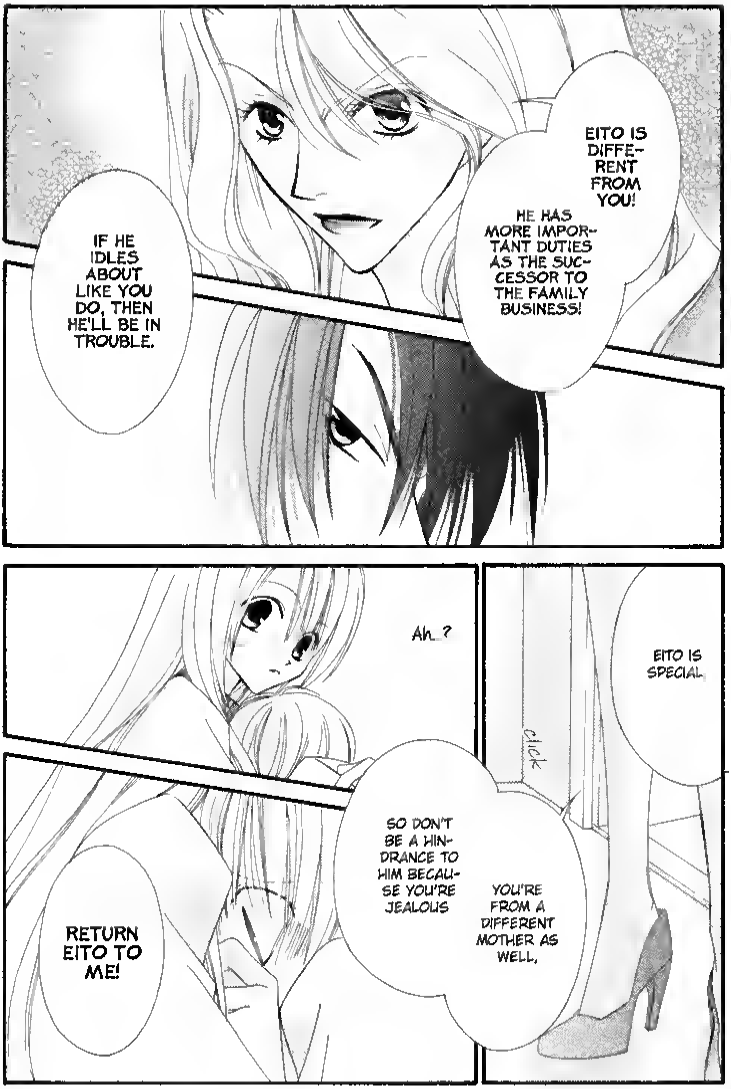
Rub rub
THAT'S GREAT
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE HELPED ME CELEBRATE MY BIRTH-DAY!
I'M REALLY HAPPY!
BIG BROTHER, BIG SISTER, THANK YOU!
Yeah
It looks really sweet!
Cakes are supposed to be sweet!
Cakes are my specialty
I can't guarantee the taste
Ahahaha
Yay!
HM THEN LET'S EAT THE CAKE!


BANG!
WHAT IS IT?
What a loud noise
Swish
Swish
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

MI-TSURU!!
OPEN THE DOOR!!
WH... WHAT IS IT?
IT'S HIS MOM.
HUH?
Clench.


IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT
Hugs
IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT
Clack

STOP KIDDING ME!
WHERE'S EITO?! HE CAME HERE, RIGHT?!
EITO!! COME HOME WITH ME THIS INSTANT!
tremble
YOU'LL BOTHER THE NEIGHBORS LIKE THIS
EITO DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL OR HIS TUTORING CLASSES,
SO I GUESSED THAT HE CAME HERE!
YOU MUST'VE TAKEN HIM AWAY FROM SCHOOL, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? HURRY UP AND LEAVE THIS PLACE


EITO IS DIFFERENT FROM YOU!
HE HAS MORE IMPORTANT DUTIES AS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE FAMILY BUSINESS!
IF HE IDLES ABOUT LIKE YOU DO, THEN HE'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
EITO IS SPECIAL.
click
YOU'RE FROM A DIFFERENT MOTHER AS WELL,
SO DON'T BE A HINDRANCE TO HIM BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS
Ah...?
RETURN EITO TO ME!

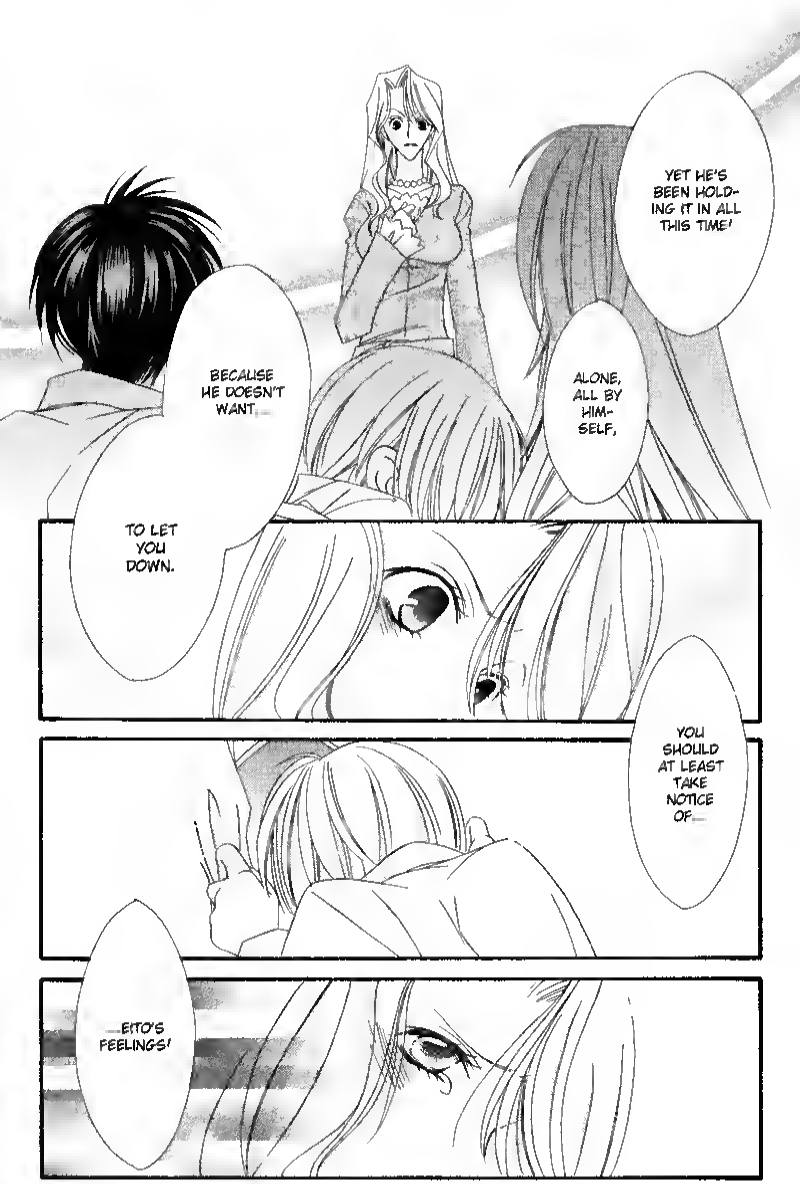
EI-
STOP!!
TUG
EITO?! YOU'RE IN THERE, RIGHT?!
TIME TO GO HOME! EITO!!
Eito
YOU EVEN BROUGHT A GIRL TO YOUR ROOM!
TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU GOING TO EMBARRASS THE SAKAKI FAMILY?
AH... OR...
PLEASE DON'T YELL SO LOUDLY
WE CAN ALL HEAR YOU, SO SPEAK SOFTER!

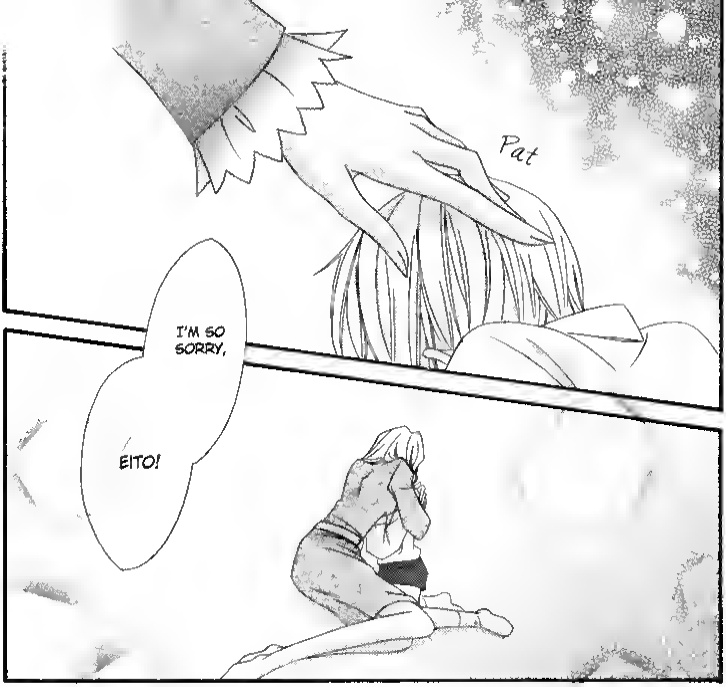
IS SHE ONLY AIMING FOR THE MONEY?
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO HOME, EITO!!
HURRY UP AND COME WITH ME!
Ah!
Hold
NO.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU!!
WE STILL DIDN'T FINISH EATING THE CAKE!!
SO, NO!
...
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Pfft
SWISH
K...
KNOW YOUR PLACE !!

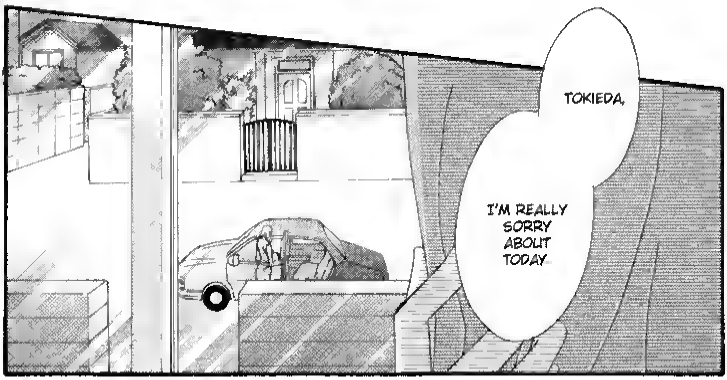
SLAP
W...
WHAT ...?

sob
Ei...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU HEARD EITO CRY, RIGHT?
Uwa aaah ...!

ACTING LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF A LITTLE CHILD
DO YOU KNOW HOW FRIGHTENING THAT IS?
MOTHERS WHO HAVE JUST FOUND THEIR LOST CHILD
SHOULD HUG THEM FIRST, RIGHT?
YOU EVEN FORGOT THAT IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY TODAY, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A MOTHER?
EITO IS STILL SO SMALL.


YET HE'S BEEN HOLDING IT IN ALL THIS TIME!
ALONE, ALL BY HIMSELF,
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT...
TO LET YOU DOWN.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE NOTICE OF...
...EITO'S FEELINGS!


Pat
I'M SO SORRY, EITO!


TOKIEDA,
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT TODAY

<Zero Count Chapter 4 / End>

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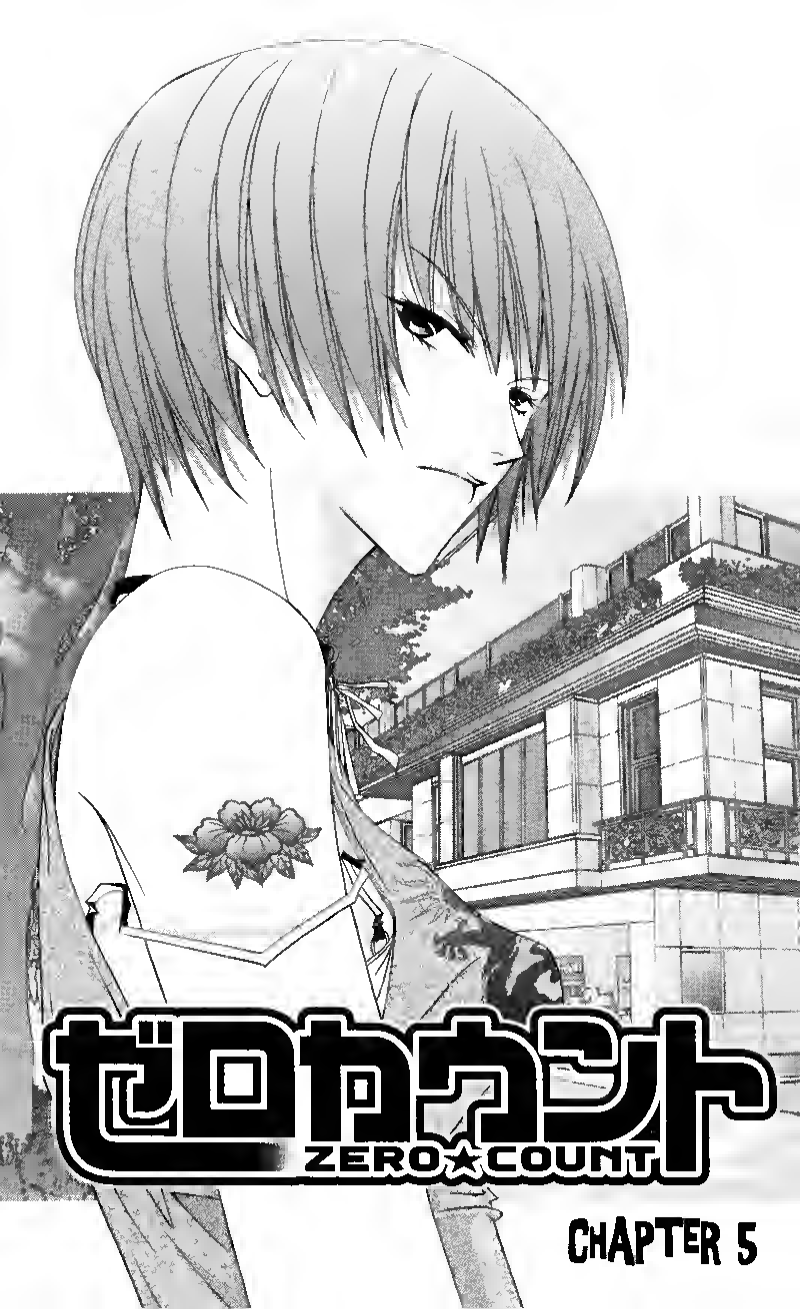


CHAPTER 5

Silence——…
WHY
—
DO YOU KEEP STANDING BEHIND ME LIKE THAT?
IT'S REALLY UNCOM-FOR-TABLE!
Do you have something to say?!
HUH ?!
WHEN DID YOU NOTICE ?!
I WAS JUST PASSING BY BEHIND YOU!
Yeah!
You've been staring at me for ten minutes already.

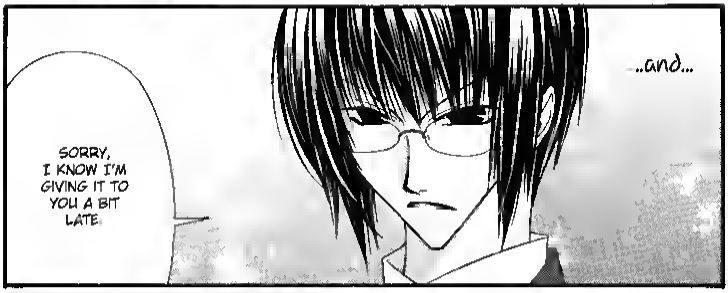
"YOU EVEN HAVE A DIFFERENT MOM."
...to the conversation between Sakaki-kun and his mom.
At that time I didn't pay attention.
"YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM HIDEHITO."
AH!
IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK ME?
Actually, there are a lot of things on my mind
Yesterday I accidentally witnessed Sakaki-kun's family get into a fight
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ASK YOU
YOU REALLY ARE A WEIRDO!
I wonder... if he isn't really lonely behind that smile?
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE CONFUSED I GET...
Hmm...
SAKAKI-KUN, I'M REALLY SORRY!
AH? What's
And Sakaki-kun's living by himself in a little apartment
OINTMENT AND PATCHES AS WELL AS PAINKILLERS AND BANDAGES ... ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
CLATTER
AH... UM, HERE.
I keep wondering about things like that...

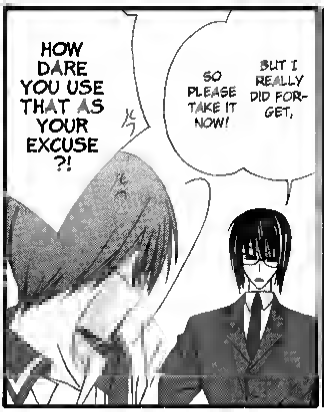
AH!
YOU!
YOU ARE TOO MUCH!!
AH?
What?
I WAS THINKING YOU WOULD LOOK TERRIBLE IF IT SWELLS!
SO, I GOT YOU THIS AS THANKS FOR PROTECTING ME!
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT...
But if he doesn't then it's probably Toono Minori
Sakaki Mitsuru has one of the five requirements. The first initial of his name is "M" so if there's a flower-shaped mole on the back of his neck, then he could be my fiance!
His neck is exposed! This is my chance!
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME SOME STOMACH MEDICINE, TOO...? AFTER ALL, I ATE THAT CAKE ALL BY MYSELF
Uh huh
N-N-N-NOTHING!
DASH
STAGGER
What is it now?
SO...
Now... I need to take the chance now...

SHE REALLY IS AN UNBELIEVABLE TWERP...
Heh
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
swipe

JUST A LITTLE MORE AND I COULD HAVE CONFIRMED IT!
WELL, IT'S OK EVEN IF I'M WEIRD
HE MUST THINK I'M REALLY WEIRD
SIGH
WHY DID I RUN ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
SERIOUSLY,
BAM!

I have five clues
besides the first initial of the name
there's a flower-shaped mole on the back of his neck, a little black mole on the hip, he's got a fear of heights and it's someone I met when I was small
Among the Seven Stars there are only two people with the initial M
I think that as long as one of them has two of the clues he should be my fiance
If I saw a mole on Sakaki-kun's neck
What would I do?
DIDN'T I ALREADY SAY I DON'T WANT IT?!
WHAT'S THE USE OF GIVING THIS TO ME NOW?
WH... WHAT...?
That scared me.
This voice.
I DON'T NEED SOME-THING LIKE THAT!
Ah! It is Sakuragi-san after all...


...and...
SORRY, I KNOW I'M GIVING IT TO YOU A BIT LATE.


HOW DARE YOU USE THAT AS YOUR EXCUSE ?!
SO PLEASE TAKE IT NOW!
BUT I REALLY DID FOR-GET,

Asahina Tooru
second Year
The Star of the flower arrange-ments aristo-cratic family
Oh yeah

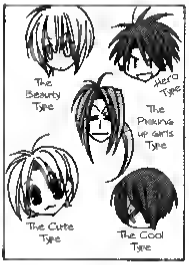
Eh ? He's also one of the Seven Stars
Asahina-senpai

AH! UM!! PLEASE DON'T BULLY HIM!!
I have to stop them before they are caught !
YOU BASI-CALLY ...!
Oh no! I have a feeling they're going to fight!

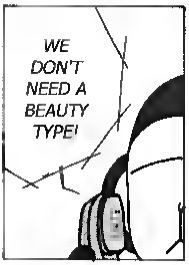
nudge nudge
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THAT GUY?
I ALSO FOUND THAT STRANGE.
I I DIDN'T STOP TO THINK
Hmph!
I'M STILL NOT GOING TO ACCEPT IT, THOUGH
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, IT'S USELESS LEAVING THIS WITH ME...
Owl
WHAT IS THAT?
AH... IT'S A PHOTO.
A PHOTO?
IT'S AN IMPORTANT MEMORY, RIGHT? WHY?
I DON'T NEED IT!
PHOTOS... THEY SHOULD JUST BE THROWN AWAY!
KAZUKI

UM... ARE YOU REALLY CLOSE TO SAKURAGI-SAN?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE YOU CALLED HER BY HER FIRST NAME!
AH! SAKU-RAGI-SAN!
...DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE INSTANT A PICTURE IS TAKEN, ALL THE NEARBY WANDERING SPIRITS ARE GATHERED INSIDES THE PICTURE...?
NOW I REALLY DON'T WANT IT!!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN CALL US CLOSE... WE'RE CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS, I GUESS...
WE ONLY PLAYED TOGETHER THOUGH, WHEN SHE CAME OVER TO MY HOUSE FOR FLOWER ARRANGING LESSONS...
CAN YOU EVEN CALL THAT "PLAYING TOGETH-ER?"
BUT...
I'M THE ONLY ONE.. WHO KNOWS THE TRUE FACE OF KAZUKI

...HUH?
The true face...?
YOU
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING ME ?!
Well Sakurai-san's perceptive after all
AH! I'VE BEEN DISCO-VERED
Argh! She's driving me crazy!
WHAT I WANT ...? Umm.
Hmm.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OF COURSE I CAN SEE YOU!

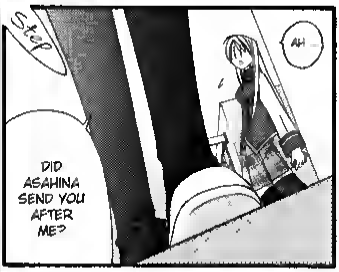

The Beauty Type
Hero Type
The Picking up girls Type
The Cute Type
The Cool Type

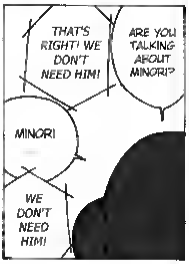
What "That's right, that's right?
This girl...
AH! THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT!!
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY, THEN GET OUT OF MY SIGHT...


WE DON'T NEED A BEAUTY TYPE!

YOU REALLY DON'T WANT THAT PHOTO ANYMORE?

...SO WHAT IF IT IS?
...Ah...


Step
AH...
DID ASAHINA SEND YOU AFTER ME?

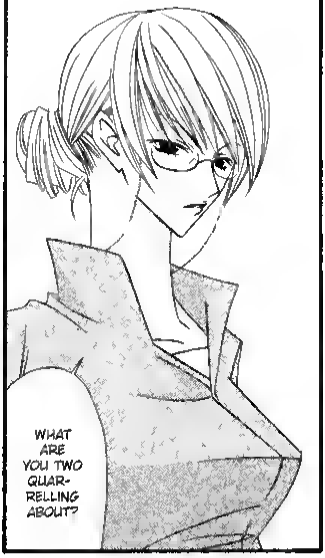

THAT'S RIGHT! WE DON'T NEED HIM!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MINORI?
MINORI
WE DON'T NEED HIM!

AH, NO! IT'S JUST THAT I THINK...
...IT MUST BE A PRECIOUS MEMORY

And that's what happened.
Even though I kept losing, told that we didn't need Minori, I still insisted on his appearance in the manga.
BUT I WANT HIM!
AH.

IN THE END, IT'S JUST A REMINDER OF SOMETHING THAT'S GONE.
THERE'S NO SIGNIFICANCE TO IT WHATSOEVER
Sakuragi-san went back to her usual expression again...
WHY SHOULD I LET YOU SEE IT?!
WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?!
No matter what...
HUH? BUT I WANT TO LOOK AT IT, TOO!
AH! YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
Let go of me!
AH!
"AH" WHAT ?!
NO, WE'RE NOT!
WHY? AREN'T WE FRIENDS?
Tap
Tap

ALSO, YOUR SPEECH IS VULGAR.
YOU'RE SO LOUD IN THE HALL-WAY.
HOW SHAME-FUL!


WHAT ARE YOU TWO QUAR-RELLING ABOUT?

AND YOU CAN'T EVEN WEAR YOUR UNIFORM PROPERLY.

HOW LONG WILL YOU CONTINUE TO BE A DIS-APPOINTMENT TO ME?
Prod.

See?
Me, too!
Look, Look!
...THOSE WORDS
ARE YOU SAYING THEM AS DIRECTOR OR...
YOU ARE A FAILURE, SO CHANGE YOUR WAYS.
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO ARGUE WITH ME,
WHY DON'T YOU DEDICATE YOURSELF TO YOUR STUDIES?
The Director is..
Sakuragi-san's mother?
...AS MY MOTHER?
Eh?

Tap
Tap
Sakuragi-san's mother
KAZUKI?
AH, WAIT!
Turn
?
IT'S NO-THING,
AT LEAST TO YOU.
Bye now!
Didn't I say that you didn't want it before?
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
YOU CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME YOU STILL HAVE THE PHOTO, RIGHT?
UH... YEAH, HERE
Tuuuck
I'M TAKING IT

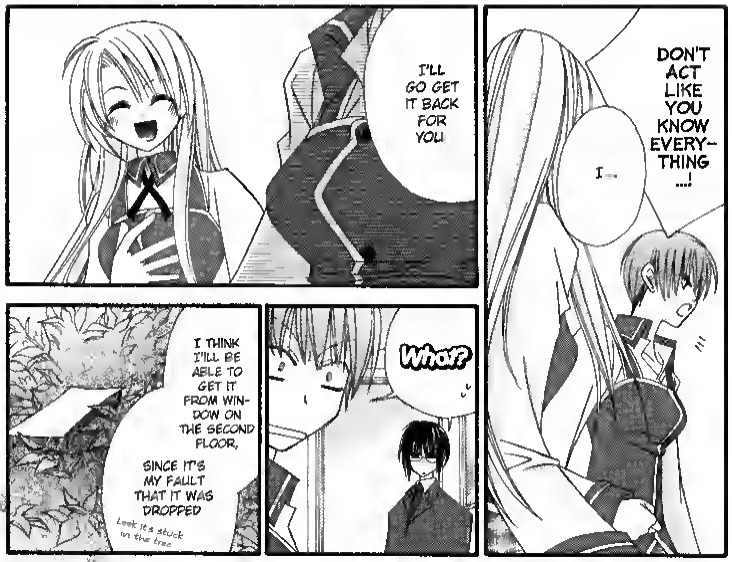
Why does Asahina suddenly understand?
AH... SO THAT'S WHY...
HUH?
UH...
HEY, TOKIEDA...
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED HERE?
SHE MET WITH THE DIRECTOR?
EH... WELL...
SHE AND THE DIRECTOR...
UM... SAKURAGI-SAN AND HER MOTHER...
UH, WHO'S ALSO THE DIRECTOR...
Are they...
Yeah! Their relationship is really bad.
BLUNT
OH...
OR INSTEAD YOU MIGHT SAY THAT
Wow he's so blunt!
KAZUKI'S SCARED,
AND BECAUSE OF HER FEAR SHE KEEPS HER DISTANCE WITH OPEN THREATS AND GESTURES
UNEASY ABOUT SEPARATION,
AND UNEASY ABOUT NOT BEING NEEDED
THOSE ARE THE FEELINGS SHE CARRIES, WHILE PRETENDING TO BE STRONG
SHE'S UNEASY ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP...

WHY ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S DEPRESSED?
Then what the director just said to her must have been...
DEPRESSED
OH...
So that's what she meant...
Ah...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S LIKE THIS NOW, THEIR RELATIONSHIP USED TO BE REALLY GOOD.
"IN THE END, IT'S JUST A REMINDER OF SOMETHING THAT'S GONE."
how much hurt are you hiding?
Sakuragi-san...
MEANING THAT IF SHE GOES TO THE TOP, IT'LL BE...
THE ROOF!
No way!!
SAKURAGI-SAN... JUST WENT UP THOSE STAIRS...
Where...
AH?
AH!
THIS IS THE FOURTH FLOOR, RIGHT...?

Shf
WHAT KIND OF SIGNIFI-CANCE DOES THIS KIND OF THING HAVE?
THIS KIND OF THING
I'M SUCH A FOOL!

SLAM
SHOCK
crumple
SAKURAGI-SAN?!
Ahl
BAM
You can't jump off the build-ing!
Calm down! Please calm down!
THE ONE WHO SHOULD CALM DOWN IS YOU, OK?!
WHAT EXACT-LY ARE YOU...?!
Flutter
AH... WHAT JUST FELL DOWN...?
Ohm~

THAT?
A PHOTO.
HUH?
FOR-GET IT!
FAST
I WANTED TO THROW IT AWAY, ANYWAY.
THIS WAY YOU SAVED ME A LOT OF TROUBLE, SO THANK YOU.
BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO THROW IT AWAY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
THANKS TO HER HELP, YOU WERE ABLE TO LET GO, RIGHT?
THE ONLY
FAMILY PHOTO YOU HAVE.
THROWING IT AWAY, IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?


I'LL GO GET IT BACK FOR YOU
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW EVERY-THING ....!
I...
!!!
I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET IT FROM WIN-DOW ON THE SECOND FLOOR,
SINCE IT'S MY FAULT THAT IT WAS DROPPED
Look it's stuck on the tree
What?

HUH?! ARE YOU AN IDIOT?! THERE'S NO NEED TO!
SOME-THING LIKE THAT ....!
DON'T WORRY!
JUST WAIT A SECOND, OK?

HH...
WRK
...
A LITTLE MORE ...
JUST ...
WA-
AAAH !
!!

Huff
WHA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Isn't that too danger-ous?
SOR-SOR-SORRY!
Uhoo!
I WANT TO GET
Look over there!
THAT.
THAT'S WHY I WAS LEANING SO FAR OUT.
ENOUGH!
...

!!
YOU STAY HERE AND...
Ah!
Flutter
...THEN I'LL HELP YOU GET IT.
IS THAT SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT?
YEAH, IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT!
I got it!
No! Don't fly off!
Grab
TOKI-EDA ?!
Fussle Fussle Fussle
HUH ?!

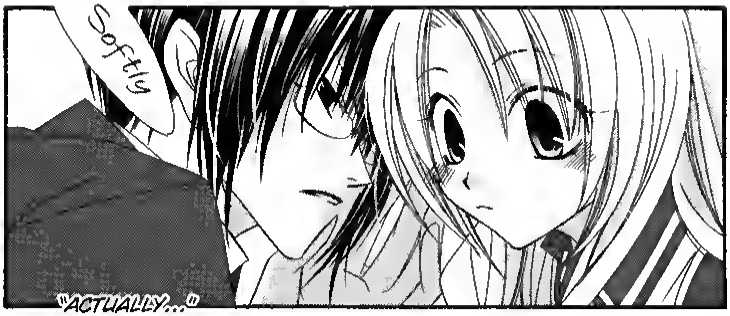
HERE ...
ARE YOU OK?!
YEAH, I THINK SO
What do I do now?
My hand...
TOKIEDA,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

COME,
I'LL CATCH YOU.
GEEZ, I GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
OK!
RELEASE

ARE YOU OK?
YUP.
THANK YOU.

I'm so excited! ♡
Heh.
NEVER-MIND... IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE SAFE...
And now, back to the roof with Sakuragi-san's photo!

THANKS!
BUT... WHATEVER. IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE SAFE.
THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT TO YOUR RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR, OK?!
WHAT WOULD WE DO IF YOU FELL DOWN AND HIT YOUR HEAD?!
SORRY
NAG NAG
She seems to have seen everything from the roof
and kept looking at that photo with a smile
She said this while being kind of embarrassed
WELL, ACTUALLY
HUH?
I'LL TELL YOU A SEVEN STAR SECRET
TOKIEDA, YOU'VE DONE GREAT JOB
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.
SO HAPPY
Come over here



‹ Zero Count Chapter 5 / End ›

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ゼロカウント
ZERO★COUNT
CHAPTER 6

I'm off!

"...A PICTURE THAT'S EXACTLY THE SAME!"
"...ON TOP OF THE DIRECTOR'S DESK, THERE IS..."
A picture that made Sakuragi smile so gently.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
Picture
and the director has the same picture on the top of her desk...
This is her only family pictur
WHY MUST IT BE KEPT A SECRET?
If she knew that the director cherishes the same picture...
I THINK THAT IF SHE KNEW, SHE WOULD BE EVEN HAPPIER.

You wouldn't have said something so sad..
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
IF SHE KNEW THAT HER MOTHER FEELS THE SAME ABOUT THAT SPECIAL PICTURE,
THEN IT WOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT...
"IN THE END, IT'S A REMINDER OF SOMETHING THAT'S GONE."
Then it wouldn't be like that
IF SHE DOESN'T LOOK FOR THE TRUTH HERSELF,
SHE WON'T SEE ANYTHING.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY TO KAZUKI RIGHT NOW, SHE WON'T UNDERSTAND
NO MATTER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY,
SHE STILL WON'T BELIEVE IT.
Herself.
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THAT DAY WOULD COME SOONER

THAT DAY IS NOT SO FAR OFF, I BET.
THOUGH, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M THINKING SO OPTIMISTICALLY TODAY.
..YEAH.
PAT
PAT
Ah..
HUH? WHAT A RARE SIGHT!
ASAHINA'S FINALLY OVERCAME "THAT?"
He's one of the Seven Stars... Sawamura Yuu.
Creak
SHUT UP, NOW
What?

HOW SCARY!
KICK
EH!!
LOOK!
BUMP
AH!
HEY, ASAHINA, ARE YOU WORRIED YET?
Heh.
WHA ?!
AH!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
He has a fear of heights!
It's funny to watch isn't it?

FEAR OF HEIGHTS
Wait
THIS KIND OF PLACE CAN BE DANGEROUS TO SOME-ONE WITH A FEAR OF HEIGHTS!
Oh?
Asahina-san looks really scared right now!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
IT'S MEAN TO FORCE A PERSON LIKE THAT!
JUST GET ME DOWN
AHHH! THAT'S DANGE-ROUS!
Whoa!
TOO BAD FOR YOU! IT'S REALLY NICE UP HERE!
Heh.
EH? SO ASAHINA IS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS?
Fear of heights?!
Yup!
SO BOTH OF YOU GUYS ARE FINE WITH HIGH PLACES—?
HEY!
I know it's in here...
FLIP
Huh? But one of the five clues...
OH ...?

AH. IT'S MY DAD.
ISN'T THAT SAWAMURA-?
It's OK, everything will be fine.
PAT PAT
S-so humiliating!
OH, RIGHT HE SAID HE WAS COMING TODAY.
SOMETHING ABOUT BEING ASKED TO DESIGN OUR SCHOOL UNIFORMS..
Sawa-mura Yuu second Year
The child star of the designer world
His father's a top designer
TO THINK HE WOULD ACTUALLY ACCEPT THE OFFER!

WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY GOING TO THIS EXTENT?
...Huh?
SAY ONE MORE WORD AND I'LL PUSH YOU OVER THESE BARS!
BECAUSE IT'S THE UNIFORM OF HIS ONE AND ONLY CUTE LITTLE SON
Grip
I DON'T LIKE IT...
BEING ABLE TO WEAR A UNIFORM THAT...
...MY FATHER DESIGNED WOULD BE FUN
Really...
Ah.
AH HA HA HA!
IT-IT'S NOT THAT!
Eh?
YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR FATHER?
CONFUSED
WELL, YOU SEE
I LIKE THE CLOTHES THAT MY DAD DESIGNS AND I REALLY ADMIRE HIM.
I ALSO LIKE TO DESIGN CLOTHING.

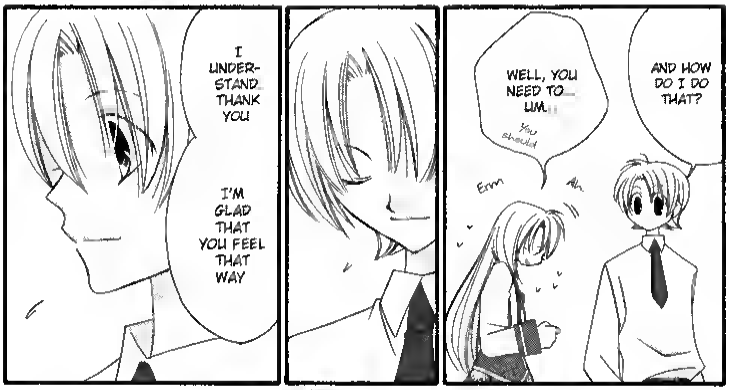
AH! THEN YOU WILL FOLLOW IN YOUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS AND BECOME A DESIGNER?
YOUR FATHER MUST BE PROUD...
AH... UM...?
silence
IT LOOKS LIKE I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF ABILITY!
EH...?
SNIFF
UNFORTUNATELY,
ISN'T IT A BIT TOO EARLY TO BE SAYING THAT...?
UM...
PERSONALLY...
I REALLY LIKE.
SAWAMURA'S DESIGNS

WHEN DID YOU SEE THEM ?!
SHIRAKAWA SHOWED IT TO ME BEFORE
Aw! he was happy to do so
IT WAS THE SKETCH OF A DESIGN
I saw it before as well
Aw!
AH, THAT'S RIGHT I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE, TOO
Huh?! You saw it before as well? How lucky!
Me too!
Raise
Saint-Kaiba-Bijutsukan!!
HE PICKED UP THE DRAWING THAT YOU THREW IN THE TRASH CAN,
SO IT WAS JUST A BIT WRINKLED.

FORGET IT! YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT DESIGNING.
HOW WOULD YOU GUYS KNOW IF MY DRAWINGS ARE ANY GOOD?
IN MY DAD'S OPINION, THEY AREN'T WORTH ANYTHING AT ALL...
HE JUST TOOK ONE LOOK, SIGHED AND SAID,
"THESE WON'T DO."
NO MATTER HOW MANY I DREW, HE JUST THREW THEM AWAY!
MY DESIGNS ARE NOTHING.

WE KIND OF LIKED IT.
WE DIDN'T SAY THAT IT WAS VERY GOOD.
TENSE
BUT ...
YOU GUYS DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.
I .
YOU'LL STILL DRAW IN THE FUTURE, RIGHT?
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO GIVE UP
YOU LIKE DRAWING DESIGNS, DON'T YOU?

I MAY NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT DESIG-NING,
BUT I DO KNOW THAT YOU LIKE TO DRAW!
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!
IT'S IMPORTANT TO BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELF!
If you fall down, get back up again!
DON'T GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
AH
I MEAN... WHAT I WANTED TO SAY IS... YOU NEED TO WORK HARD...
Do your best!
SHOW YOUR FATHER YOUR TRUE TALENT!!


I UNDERSTAND. THANK YOU.
I'M GLAD THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY
WELL, YOU NEED TO... UM...
you should
Erm
Ah
AND HOW DO I DO THAT?

I HAVE A PLAN, BUT...
THE REST IS UP TO YOU, SAWAMURA
THERE IS ONE WAY.

SHIRA-
KAWA
—?

IF
YOU
WANT
TO DO
IT,
I'LL
HELP
YOU.

WHETHER
YOU CAN TAKE
THE SITUATION
AND MAKE
SOMETHING
OUT OF IT IS
UP TO YOU.

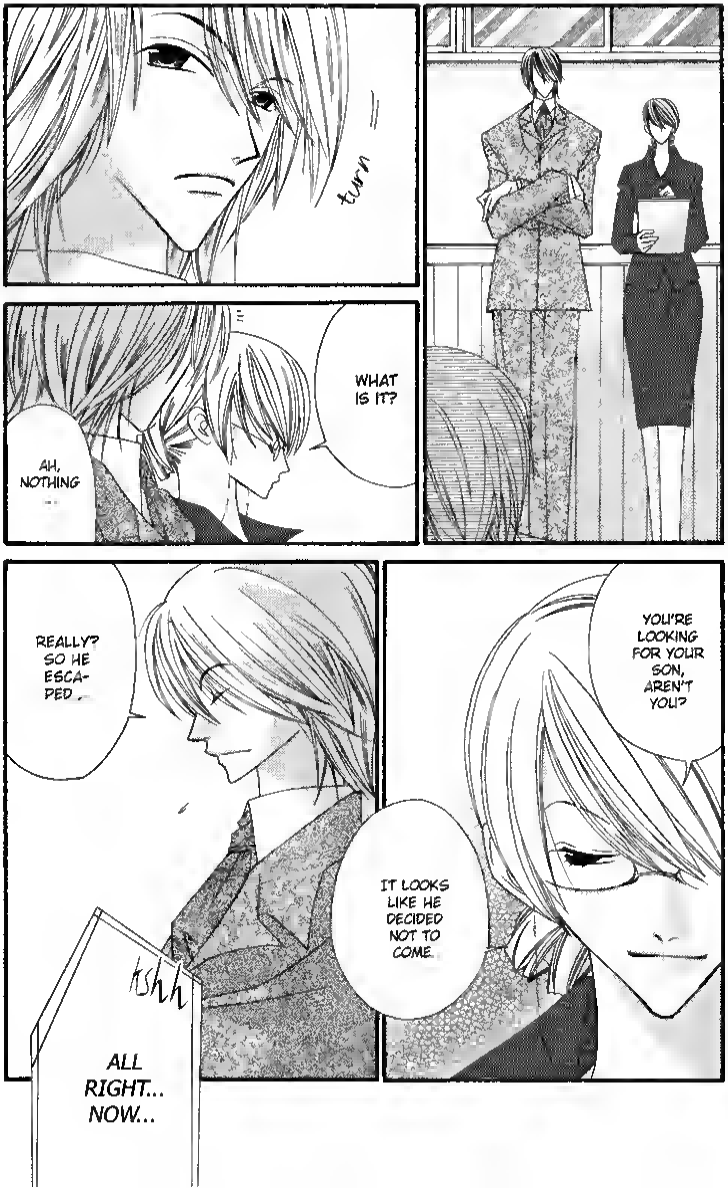
This is my first manga since I finished drawing "Never Give Up" (laugh). The days are going by fast. The story is also moving along quickly (laugh) Compared to "Never Give Up," this two volume series is much shorter I'll be happy if everyone likes it.

Zero count has been moving quickly from the beginning I'm wondering... What does everyone think of it? (laugh) I've finally finished the serialization (laugh). I'll learn from my mistakes and draw even better next time.

Ah! When this manga was serialized something big happened My two good friends got married.. congrats. It's so great. Seeing that they're so happy I also feel really peaceful inside Next thing, the anticipation of the birth of a little baby (laugh) It's really something to look forward to I'll do a shout here everyone must definitely have a happy and complete family! Congrats..!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?
A week later...
The result of the votes will determine the uniform.
The day has arrived for Sawamura's designs to be presented.
All the teachers and students are gathered here in the auditorium to watch as the new uniforms are to be presented in front of everyone in a catwalk style!

3
7


turn
WHAT IS IT?
AH, NOTHING
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR SON, AREN'T YOU?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE DECIDED NOT TO COME
REALLY? SO HE ESCAPED
ALL RIGHT... NOW...

...
ALL THE UNIFORMS HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED
VOTING FORM
BOYS
SUMMER
PLEASE VOTE FOR THE UNIFORM OF YOUR CHOICE ON THE HAND-OUT THAT YOU RECEIVED EARLIER,
AND PLACE IT IN THE BOX AT THE ENTRANCE ON YOUR WAY OUT...
sigh
FLICKER
WHAT ...?
WHO DID THAT?
WHO TURNED ON THE SPOT-LIGHTS ...?

FLASH
HAIER
3...
2...
1...
STEP

GO!

WHAT IS THE MEAN-ING OF THIS?!
TEACHERS!! HURRY AND GET THEM DOWN FROM THERE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! HURRY UP!
THESE KIDS SURE HAVE INTERESTING IDEAS...
DIRECTOR, AREN'T YOU GOING TO STOP THEM?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT ...
I'LL GIVE THEM THEIR PUNISHMENT AFTER IT'S OVER

YOU KNOW WHO ORGANIZED THIS AND DESIGNED THOSE UNI-FORMS, DON'T YOU?
Grin

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MAKE OUR ESCAPE.
WHO CHANGED THE MUSIC ?!
Chuckle
HEY! HURRY UP AND GET DOWN FROM THERE!!
YEAH

RIP
EEEEEEEEEK!
LET'S GO!!

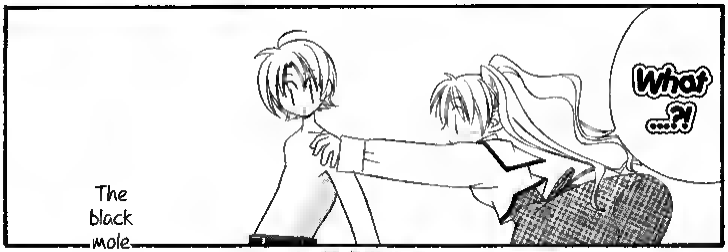
DON'T WORRY, I'LL CATCH YOU.
TOKIEDA,

grip
LET'S GO!
JUMP

GET BACK HERE !!!
EXPRESS-ING YOUR THOUGHTS SO OPENLY
I'M IMPRESS-ED

Ah! That felt great!!!
THANK YOU!
I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS HAPPY IN A WHILE!
THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP.

Now Sawamura doesn't have to give up on his dreams
WITHOUT SHIRTS WE LOOK LIKE MEMBERS OF A GANG!
AH LET'S GO BACK TO THE CLASSROOM TO CHANGE
This is great
The black mole!!
I've finally found it..!
I didn't think this day would ever come!
GRAB
Eh...?!



The black mole on the hip...

Why does Sawamura have it?!

<Zero Count@chapter 6 / End>